The Town of South Kingstown, RI

Comprehensive Community Plan

2014

Horsley Witten Group

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South Kingstown, Rhode Island
Comprehensive Community Plan
2014 Update

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SOUTH KINGSTOWN COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLAN INTRODUCTION

I. ELEMENTS OF THE PLAN

The Comprehensive Community Plan (the Plan) is a planning document designed to guide the future growth and development of the Town of South Kingstown. The Town last updated its Plan in May 2005 with approval by Rhode Island Office of Statewide Planning in June of that same year. The Town of South Kingstown has routinely amended the Comprehensive Community Plan as needed. This update was prepared in accordance with the Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act including Part VII: Local Maintenance of the Comprehensive Plan.

This update includes the following elements:

- Land Use
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Natural and Cultural Resources
- Services and Facilities
- Open Space and Recreation
- Circulation
- University of Rhode Island
- Implementation Schedule

II. THE 2014 UPDATE

1. Background

The Town of South Kingstown recognizes the success of the Plan completed in 1992 and the subsequent update completed in 2005. The 1992 Plan includes extensive baseline data for each of the elements identified above and remains a valuable resource for those interested in monitoring trends over time. The 1992 Plan and the 2005 Plan Update are available for review on the Town's website. This 2014 Plan Update includes contemporary baseline information to provide context for each element.

This update was prepared under the direction of the South Kingstown Planning Board, with technical assistance from South Kingstown Planning Department staff and consultants from the Horsley Witten Group, Inc. Public participation for this process included a town-wide survey distributed in both digital and hard copy format, interviews with key community stakeholders, input gathered at multiple Planning Board work sessions, and two public visioning workshops. Public hearings held by the Town Council and Planning Board on March 25, 2013 and October 11, 2012 respectively also provided a public forum for review of the update.

This Comprehensive Community Plan Update was prepared to be a user-friendly document that presents data in a concise and understandable fashion without a redundant discussion of issues that could result in conflicts in interpretation. This introductory section includes baseline information relative to existing conditions and trends in South Kingstown, a summary of the 2010 Community Survey, and an overview of the visioning process conducted throughout this update. Each element of the Plan includes the following sections:

- Introduction
- Town achievements related to the 2005 Comprehensive Plan Update
- Survey Findings
- Visioning Process
- Vision Statement
- Action Plan Including Goals, Policies and Implementation Items

It should be noted that there is a change in the way some of the baseline, or demographic, data has been updated, based on data limitations of the 2010 Census. According to the 2010 Census, the long-form questionnaire, from which detailed information was previously obtained, has since been eliminated. This detailed information no longer available from the Census includes: income levels; poverty status; labor force; occupation; nativity; ancestry; housing costs; etc. The American Community Survey (ACS) has now become the source for detailed information regarding the American experience. Narratives and data tables affected by this change in data collection/reporting utilized the ACS 3-year data table summaries (for areas with populations exceeding 20,000) for 2005 – 2007, and 2007 – 2009 for comparative analyses, as indicated within each narrative/data table.

Based on discussions with key Town stakeholders, Town department heads, input from the Planning Board and community input through both the survey and the visioning process, many of the critical issues in the community remain the same as in 1992. The Town of South Kingstown remains focused on managing growth, protecting its natural resources, and establishing a regulatory environment that encourages economic development, employment opportunities and production of housing for our diverse population. The Town has made key strides in these areas over the past decade and this will remain an ongoing objective through coming years. A status report or 'report card' of the implementation activities of the 2005 Update, by functional element, is presented in Appendix B. The goals, policies and implementation items contained in this update are intended to replace those contained in both the 1992 Plan and the 2005 Update.

2. Visioning Process

The 2014 Comprehensive Plan Update recognizes the success of the visioning processes utilized throughout the 1992 Comprehensive Community Plan and the subsequent update completed in 2005. The 1992 Comprehensive Plan included an exhaustive community participation process and extensive data gathering for each of the elements within the Plan. People looking for detailed information on that visioning process and date gathering are directed to that document for further information.

This update was prepared under the direction of the South Kingstown Planning Board, with technical assistance from South Kingstown Planning Department staff and Planning Consultants Horsley Witten Group, Inc. The visioning process for the Comprehensive Plan Update occurred through a series of information gathering techniques including:

- Two public forums focused on comprehensive planning issues held on April 6, 2010 and May 24, 2011;
- Informational interviews with key community members and board members;
- Results from the South Kingstown Community Survey;
- Multiple public outreach and engagement events occurring throughout the concurrent Healthy Places by Design grant process;
- The use of Planning Board work sessions to discuss and refine Comprehensive Plan concepts; and

- The use of a project website to provide updates and draft materials to the community.

The information gathered throughout this visioning process has been organized and provided within each individual element of this update. Below is a more detailed discussion of the various techniques used to gather this information. A summary of the aforementioned South Kingstown Community Survey is provided in Section IV of this Introduction.

2.1 Public Forums

The Town hosted two major public forums to discuss comprehensive planning issues and gather public feedback. The first forum was held on April 6, 2010 and was intended to gather ideas and public input at an early point in the visioning process to shape the initial concepts for the plan. This forum utilized information gathered from existing planning documents, results from the community survey, and ideas emerging from community interviews to present several "critical issues" for public discussion. These "critical issues" represented open-ended planning concepts regarding opportunities and challenges in Town and public feedback was gathered to revise these concepts and develop action items for addressing them.

The second major public forum was held on May 24, 2011 and was intended to present an initial draft of Comprehensive Plan materials for public comment. This forum summarized and presented draft materials for each element of the plan to gather additional feedback to refine draft policies and implementation items. This forum allowed residents and business owners and opportunity to learn about and comment on draft materials before they were finalized for submission to Town Council and the State.

2,2 Community Interviews

A total of ten community interviews were conducted with key community stakeholders and Town board members. These interviews were conducted with members of the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Affordable Housing Collaborative, Economic Development Committee, Neighborhood Organizations, Town Public Services Departments, and key community stakeholders. These interviews were instrumental in gathering ideas and input in a focused one-on-one discussion format. The interviews were guided by a series of standardized questions asked of each interviewee to provide some basis for comparison and to consider the diversity of opinion. Each interview also contained a series of specific questions relative to each interviewee's expertise for the purpose of gathering more detailed information on specific topics. Finally, each interview dedicated a portion of time for unstructured, open-ended discussion to allow interviewees to provide input on the most important issues they saw facing the Town.

The input gathered during the interview process served a critical role in developing the concepts for the Comprehensive Plan Update. These interviews served to confirm areas in which the previous Comprehensive Plan was successful in addressing the Town's needs and areas in which the Plan required new direction. These interviews provided a solid foundation for understanding the variety of issues facing the Town and established the framework of planning concepts to be incorporated into the update.

2.3 Healthy Places by Design

The Healthy Places by Design process was funded by a grant from the Rhode Island Department of Health from August 2011 to June 2012 to improve the health of the residents of South Kingstown. This grant sought to engage the community to understand the challenges and opportunities related to public health and the built environment. There were a variety of public engagement strategies used through the Healthy Places by Design process in order to gather community input. The Town partnered with the South County Branch of the YMCA of Greater Providence in order to lead this multi-faceted engagement process which included: public meetings, educational workshops, stakeholder meetings, Community Healthy Living Index assessments, a town-wide survey, project website, and a week-long interactive Healthy Community Summit. Multiple feedback loops were used throughout the process to validate public feedback, confirm emerging issues, and build consensus.

The major focal points of the Healthy Places by Design process were to increase walkability and bikeability, increase access to recreation, address design of villages and neighborhoods, and increase access to healthy foods. This process also touched on many overlapping issues, such as: planning for villages, multi-modal transportation, public transit, open space preservation, agricultural protection, improving services and facilities, collaboration with URI, and other related topics. The major findings and recommendations of the Healthy Places by Design process are documented in the report "South Kingstown: Designing a Healthier Community." The public input gathered throughout the process has had an impact on every element within this Comprehensive Plan Update.

2.4 Planning Board Work Sessions

As the primary body overseeing the Comprehensive Plan Update, the Planning Board utilized several of its work sessions from 2010 to 2014 for discussion and development of Comprehensive Plan materials. Planning Board Work Sessions were open to the public and recorded for public record. Work Sessions typically consisted of open discussions and review of draft material with Planning Board members, South Kingstown Planning Department staff, Town Legal Counsel, project consultants Horsley Witten Group, and other members of community and Town board members. These Work Sessions served to refine draft materials and discuss considerations for implementing the plan.

3. Town-Wide Vision Statement

South Kingstown will continue to be a village-based, rural tradition residential community with three primary assets: involved and proactive citizens with diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, a rich historic and prehistoric legacy, and abundant natural resources. The Town will endeavor to maintain a sustainable quality of life that limits growth based on the capacity of natural resources and public infrastructure. The Town will maintain its support of the economic engines of the community, including:, major employers such as the University of Rhode Island, South County Hospital, Schneider Electric/APC, as well as locally owned small businesses and other industries such as tourism and agriculture. The Town will embrace the needs of residents, students, and tourists in environmentally and culturally sensitive sustainable development. The Town will anticipate national, state and local fiscal constraints and will strive to maintain economic sustainability of local programs through innovative funding not solely dependent on the residential tax base. The Town recognizes the importance of protecting open space to maintain its natural and cultural resources, will encourage multimodal transportation alternatives to reduce dependence on the single occupant vehicle, will achieve excellence in the public schools, and will

restrict development to appropriately scaled construction in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan. The Town recognizes the strength and importance of its residents and will consider quality of life issues in its decision-making processes.

4. Village Summary

Each village in South Kingstown is unique and planning efforts should seek to acknowledge and account for these unique environments. The following summaries regarding the villages in South Kingstown have been provided through the ongoing development of Village Plans along with the report *An Inventory and Analysis of the Village and Rural Qualities of South Kingstown*. The identity of these areas is especially important as the Town is faced with increased development pressures and the associated propensity for "sprawl." *(*See Map 2.1 Villages)

4.1 Central Core

- The following Vision Statement has been established for Wakefield:

Wakefield is a dynamic, versatile village which serves as a hub for business and cultural activity serving local neighborhoods, the Town as a whole and surrounding region. With its strategic location off Routes 1 and 108, Wakefield provides a vital link to other villages, local institutions, the University of Rhode Island, coastal recreation resources, tourism centers and historic settings. The Saugatucket River provides a blueway centerpiece for the village and continued efforts to mitigate impacts to this resource have created a valuable cultural and improved ecological asset. The village provides a balanced integration of preserving historic structures with the encouragement of new development and innovative infill strategies to create a seamless village environment. Developed areas meet a broad range of community goals through a diversity of housing options, an extensive mix of local businesses, and convenient access to recreational, institutional and cultural amenities and services. The village core around Main Street is a vibrant corridor that provides easy access to essential services for the surrounding neighborhoods through a strong network of pedestrian and bicycle routes. Local regulations maintain the unique village character by allowing flexibility in design without losing touch with the historic fabric that helps to define Wakefield. Residents, developers, business owners, and local and state officials continually explore opportunities to collaborate in order to maintain the unique character and ongoing prosperity of historic Wakefield.

- The following Vision Statement has been established for Peace Dale:

Peace Dale is a safe, vibrant neighborhood with a village center that has come to reflect its roots as celebrated through the enhancement of historic buildings and new development that supports and improves the character of the village. The village landscape is connected by tributaries of the Saugatucket River, which provided the engine for the village restored to healthy, meandering streams. Peace Dale is home to a diversity of building scales and sizes that support a broad range of residential and business uses in a compact efficient setting. Infrastructure meets our needs and circulation within the village center is well-designed, providing ample opportunity for people to walk comfortably from one place to another. Through flexible regulations and their personal investment, they foster an economic environment in which small businesses thrive and in-town living opportunities are highly desirable. Residents and business owners share a strong sense of pride in the village, as evidenced in the manner properties are maintained and the many personal and organizational contributions to the public realm. Diversity of the built environment, the village economy, and residents, are the cornerstones to the continued success of the village. These aspects

will be carefully maintained by residents, the business community, and municipal and state officials as Peace Dale Village continues to grow and prosper.

- Kingston, a historic residential village at the north end of town, is dominated by the University of Rhode Island campus. The area still retains much of it rural atmosphere despite residential development in areas surrounding the University and growth at the URI campus. Kingston remains a center of village life for local residents with the Town library, churches, arts center, historical society, bookstore, and the Tavern Hall (meeting place for civic groups). The village also contains a post office and various commercial enterprises that provide services and goods to area residents and the campus community.

4.2 Summer Colonies

- Middlebridge, a residential area along the Narrow River, consists of a densely developed residential area originally established as a summer colony but now largely upgraded to year-round single-family homes on small lots. Low-density lots and second growth forest also dominate the scenic corridor that provides a gateway to South Kingstown along Route 1.
- Indian Lake is comprised of small lot residential development on the easterly shore of the lake surrounded by newer large-lot housing and farms, open fields and woodlands. The area does not contain any municipal buildings, commercial or institutional services.
- Snug Harbor/East Matunuck is a mix of village, rural and suburban residential areas in a scenic coastal environment containing excellent views of tidal salt marshes, Point Judith Pond and Potter Pond, the working harbor at Galilee and Jerusalem, Block Island Sound, open fields and historic stonewalls. This village area also contains a modest number and variety of commercial uses, many catering to the seasonal tourist trade and East Matunuck State Beach.
- Matunuck and the Matunuck Hills are predominantly rural areas along the south beaches and coastal ponds. The village of Matunuck is largely characterized as a summer vacation community consisting of a number of small businesses, a church/chapel and approximately 1000 summer beach homes. Small farms, large estates, historic homes, and modern residential developments surround the village. The Matunuck Hills, located north of Route 1, is a sparsely settled area of dense woods, kettle hole ponds, and habitat for rare varieties of many plant species. The Town of South Kingstown operates the Town Beach in this area. A number of other beach facilities are also present along the Matunuck shoreline both private and fee access based.
- The Green Hill Pond area is a composite of farmland and forest, with very low-density residential development, dense pond-side seasonal community, a barrier beach and newer suburban neighborhoods. Much of the area is preserved by the Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge.

4.3 Western/Rural

- Perryville/Tuckertown includes several distinct areas: Perryville, Ministerial Road, Worden's Pond, Tuckertown Road, Gravelly Hill Road and Tuckertown Village. Although all are rural, each has a unique identity and sense of place based on historic use and development patterns. Perryville remains a hamlet, with a distinct village feel while Tuckertown's park facilities now serve the community as a whole. Winding rural roads, active agricultural areas, high quality water resources, public recreation, and critical habitats on large tracts of undeveloped natural spaces and low-density development mark this portion of town.
- West Kingston is a working village, with much of its land developed in industry, small businesses, turf farms, and increasing numbers of suburban neighborhoods. The area is

dependent upon the quality of its aquifers and its prime farmland. Despite the presence of high intensity industrial uses and traffic on Route 138, West Kingston retains the sense of a small-town village.

- Usquepaugh village, located partially in Richmond, is defined by the Queens and Usquepaugh Rivers, the post-industrial core village (with Kenyon Corn Meal Co.) and rural areas including those protected by Audubon, previous sale of development rights, or partial protection by Farm Forest, and Open Space designation. Residential plat development is increasing in this, as in other, areas of the community.

III. SUMMARY OF BASELINE INFORMATION

1. Historic Land Use Patterns

This section offers a review of recent development patterns in South Kingstown. It is intended to provide the reader with a basic understanding of the major settlement patterns that have evolved and helped shape the Town. This summary begins at the start of the 20th century, when the patterns that shaped South Kingstown today were taking shape on a broad scale. For more information on the history of South Kingstown, see the Cultural Resources portion of the Natural and Cultural Resources Element. Much of the information presented here is adapted directly from the *Historic and Architectural Resources of South Kingstown, Rhode Island: A Preliminary Report*, (Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, 1984).

1.1 1900-1945

By the beginning of the 20th century much of the settlement pattern that exists in South Kingstown today was in place or emerging. This period was the height of the industrial revolution in South Kingstown as the Town began to experience a transformation from a farm-based society to an industrial economy. The villages of Peace Dale, Wakefield, and Rocky Brook all experienced increased urbanization during the period with the development of new mills (mostly textile manufacturing), residential expansion, and supporting uses. With increased employment opportunities, many flocked to these population centers.

Throughout the first half of the 20th century the “village” settlement pattern became firmly entrenched, characterized by a concentration of developed village centers surrounded by less intensive, more sparsely populated peripheral areas. However, "change was most striking outside the villages", (RIHPC, 1984). The build-up of the shore accelerated during this period especially with the new access permitted by the automobile. Matunuck Beach became densely populated with summer cottages and a few hotels were constructed as well. Green Hill continued to be developed as a popular seaside community and a new high density summer community was established at Carpenter's Beach.

The growth along the shore coupled with the access afforded by the automobile continued to spur development in other rural areas. Summer homes were built north and west of Post Road near inland ponds, in wooded areas, and on hilltops. Many narrow and dirt roads were improved, paved, and widened. Kingston, the State college grew steadily. In 1909 the College became known as Rhode Island State College (now the University of Rhode Island) and numerous buildings were added between that year and 1937.

1.2 Post World War II

Although population growth was steady between 1900 and 1940, the Town, like many others in the northeast, experienced its most sizeable increase after World War II. The two most impressive decades of population growth were the 1940's (39.4%) and 1960's (41.6%) (RI Department of Economic Development, 1987). Much of this growth could be attributed to the rapid suburbanization occurring throughout the northeast. The automobile, in large measure, hastened the flight from the cities and facilitated the movement of people to the suburbs. Roadway improvements were an important part of South Kingstown's growth. The road network between Providence and South County underwent major improvements in this period. Route 1 was upgraded and Route 95 and Route 401 were newly constructed. These changes made the Town more accessible to non-residents and employment centers (i.e., Providence) to the north within reach of local commuters.

Industrial activity in the Town's mill buildings, particularly in Peace Dale and Wakefield, experienced a decline following the war. In Peace Dale, several former estates were subdivided into smaller housing tracts and most of the growth in Peace Dale since 1950 has been residential. The Wakefield Mills complex continued in operation after the war, although it underwent changes in ownership. Downtown Wakefield began an expansion easterly along Main Street in the 1950's. While some homes still exist along Main Street between old and new commercial areas, many were, and some continue to be, converted to retail, office, and service uses. The focus of this expansion, however, centered on the Main Street/Tower Hill Road and Route 108 (Kingstown Road) intersection or what is known as Dale Carlia Corner.

Over the years, commercial uses have expanded; eastward along Tower Hill Road connecting with Route 1, southerly along Route 108 to Route 1, and northerly along Route 108. The establishment of 'special management districts' has facilitated the development of a planned mixed use center along Kingstown Road/Route 108, while South County Commons/Route 1 offers traditional village-style development in the form of commercial enterprises supported by age-restricted residential. These special management districts reinforce the Town's commitment to sustainable growth management that is tied to infrastructure limits and constraints.

Sustained moderate growth, due in large part to the Town's Development Pacing and Phasing Program, but also in part to the lack of large land tracts available for development has been balanced by an aggressive open space acquisition program. Approximately half of the residential development in town has occurred post-1970. Although the majority of residential development has been single-family homes in subdivisions, the desirability towards revitalization of existing villages throughout the Town has come about in support of smart growth and preservation of place. Discussions centered around in-fill development, pedestrian scale, and quality of 'place' are continue to serve as a foundation for municipal policy and regulation. The Town's most recent planning efforts reflect this focus with the completion of the recent South Kingstown Village Study: Villages of Wakefield and Peace Dale, with a follow-up study for Matunuck and West Kingston.

2. Existing Land Use and Zoning

Table 1 and the associated RIGIS 2004 Land Use/Land Cover Map (Map 2.2) provide a snapshot of land cover (most recent available) in South Kingstown based on data from Rhode Island Geographic Information System (RIGIS). This data depicts the distribution of different land cover classifications across town and provides a tool for the development of the Land Use Plan Map Series 2.3-2.6 (Future Land Use Map). The land use classification scheme used for this data set was based on the Anderson

Level III Modified Coding Schema used in previous land use data sets in Rhode Island (1988 and 1995) with some modifications for this data set.

Table 1. Land Use/Land Cover (2004)

RIGIS Land Use Classification	Acres
Residential High Density	291.1
Residential Medium/High Density	1,745.9
Residential Medium Density	2,138.4
Residential Medium/Low Density	1,180.4
Residential Low Density	501.1
Commercial	318.3
Water-based Transportation Facility/Comm. Docks	4.2
Mixed Barren Areas	1.3
Industrial	43.4
Strip Mines, Quarries & Gravel Pits	243.2
Developed Recreation	474.2
Cropland	2,506.4
Orchards, Groves & Nurseries	191.5
Confined Feeding Operations	1.2
Institutional	528.5
Railroads	28.8
Water and Sewage Treatment Facilities	6.1
Waste Disposal Areas	106.6
Powerlines	94.5
Cemeteries	33.5
Roads (3)	204.8
Deciduous Forest	10,503.9
Mixed Forest	4,219.7
Softwood Forest	1,523.0
Rock Outcrops	0.2
Pasture	984.8
Idle Agriculture	100.4
Brushland	205.1
Water	2,413.9
Wetland	7,721.141
Vacant Land	113.5
Beaches	50.1
Sandy Areas Other Than Beaches	53.6
Transitional Areas (4)	51.1
TOTAL	38,931.7

Source: RIGIS 2004 Land Use/Land Cover

Table 2 and the associated Land Use Map Series (Maps 2.3-2.6) illustrate the different categories of future land use for the Town. The Land Use Plan Map (Map 2.3) and the subsequent detailed area maps

(Map 2.4-2.6) are commonly referred to as the "Future Land Use Map" in other Rhode Island communities. These maps form the basis for establishing desired development patterns through the Town of South Kingstown. The Land Use Plan Map (Map 2.3) clearly illustrates the concept of a densely developed central area, or "core", surrounded by a relatively sparsely developed rural "periphery". The central core area consists of the Wakefield Detail (Map 2.4) and Kingston Detail (Map 2.5) as well the areas immediately adjacent thereto such as the Kingstown Road Detail (Map 2.6). The periphery consists of the remaining outlying areas of the Town. This concept was initiated in the 1986 Comprehensive Plan and follows the historical development pattern of the Town.

Table 2. Land Use Plan Map Categories (2012)

Land Use Category	Acreage	% of Total
Downtown Commercial	106.64	0.29%
Highway Commercial	102.29	0.28%
Neighborhood Commercial	95.28	0.26%
Commercial Shore	35.19	0.10%
Government/Institutional	1,932.20	4.95%
Industrial - 1	168.64	0.46%
Industrial - 2	82.82	0.23%
Industrial - 3	80.82	0.22%
Mixed Use	16.45	0.05%
Open Space	8,769.84	24.13%
High Density Residential	153.52	0.42%
Medium High Density Residential	2,662.39	7.33%
Medium Density Residential	4,400.29	12.47%
Low Density Residential	1,882.71	5.18%
Very Low Density Residential	14,029.28	38.60%
Route 1 Special Management District	220.20	0.61%
Public Marina Special Management District	7.52	0.02%
Scenic Highways	402.18	1.11%
Other Roads	1,197.89	3.30%
Town wide Acreage Totals	36,346.1	**100.00%**

Table 3 below and the associated Zoning Map (Map 2.9) illustrate the Town's 19 Zoning Districts which are designed to regulate development in a consistent vision with the Comprehensive Plan and the Land Use Plan Maps in accordance with state law. The land use categories within Table 2 /Land Use Plan Map Series are naturally aligned with the Zoning Districts detailed in Table 3/Zoning Map, however it should be noted that there are a number of inconsistencies as described here.

Inconsistencies between Land Use Plan Map Series and Zoning Map:

Parcel Acreage: The RIGIS data used to measure the acreage of parcels for the Land Use Plan Map Series differs slightly from the acreage recorded by the Town Tax Assessor's records used for the Zoning Map. The difference between parcel acreage of RIGIS data and Tax Assessor's data is slight and only

affects specific parcels predominately along the coast. These differences are not viewed as significant for planning purposes.

Scenic Highways: Route 1 and Route 110 are classified as Scenic Highways on the Land Use Plan Map Series to illustrate the vision for these state right of ways. However there is no classification for Scenic Highways on the Zoning Map and the technical zoning definition of these state right of ways is the underlying abutting Zoning Districts.

Residential Districts: The number and type of residential Zoning District varies slightly from the residential Land Use Categories. This is due to fact that both the R10 and R20 Zoning Districts are folded within the Medium High Density Residential Land Use Category as that category is defined in terms of density. Similarly, both the R30 and R40 Zoning Districts are folded together within the Medium Density Residential Land Use Category as defined by its density.

Open Space: There a number of parcels held as open space in fee simple terms by conservation organizations that are called out on the Land Use Plan Map Series but are not shown as Open Space Districts on the Zoning Map. The intent of the Land Use Plan Map Series is to show parcels which have been protected as open space through a variety of methods whereas they may not necessarily be "zoned" Open Space. Within the descriptions of the Residential Land Use Categories in Section 2.1 below several make a reference to Zoning Districts in which Open Space is a consistent use with the intent of the district.

Table 3. Zoning Districts (2012)

Zoning District	Parcels	Acreage	% of Total
CD - Commercial Downtown	179	72.25	0.21%
CH - Commercial Highway	65	100.78	0.30%
CN - Commercial Neighborhood	99	103.60	0.31%
CW - Commercial Waterfront	26	36.42	0.11%
GI - Government and Institutional	113	1,845.88	5.45%
IND-1 - Industrial One	39	156.28	0.46%
IND-2 - Industrial Two	6	67.87	0.20%
IND-3 - Industrial Three	6	82.06	0.24%
MU - Mixed Use	21	17.85	0.05%
OS - Open Space, Conservation and Recreation	153	6,205.67	18.31%
RM - Residential Multi-Household	19	126.47	0.37%
R10 - Medium High Density Residential	1,912	821.02	2.42%
R20 - Medium High Density Residential	2,991	1,888.52	5.57%
R30 - Medium Density Residential	1,109	628.65	1.85%
R40 - Medium Density Residential	1,323	5,213.42	15.38%
R80 - Rural Residential Low Density	3,296	12,012.12	35.44%
R200 - Rural Very Low Density Residential	451	4,315.77	12.73%
Rte 1 SMD - Route 1 Special Management District	33	189.19	0.56%
PMSMD - Public Marina Special Management District	2	7.51	0.02%
Town wide Acreage Totals	**11,843**	**33,891.33**	**100.00%**

Total Number of Split Zoned Parcels: 39. Source: Town of South Kingstown

There are natural correlations between the Land Use Categories and the Zoning District as discussed above. The Zoning Map is intended to be consistent with the Land Use Plan Map Series, however these two separate maps sets are not intended to match each other exactly. Further descriptions of each Land Use Categories and, where applicable, the associated Zoning Districts are provided below.

2.1 Residential Land Use

Residential areas are reserved for those areas of the Town in which the citizens of the Town live. The predominant use may be for single, duplex or multi-family housing, but compatible accessory uses also may be allowed. Residential development in South Kingstown can be divided into five classifications based upon average of gross residential densities and are described below. Different housing densities should be available in order to encourage a variety of housing types and to provide for affordable housing within the community.

High Density Residential

These residential areas contain an average density greater than 4.3, but less than 7.7 dwelling units per acre and are intended to provide areas within the Town for multi-household housing. The density of development corresponds to the present provisions of the Zoning Ordinance for multi-household dwelling units in the RM - Residential Multi-Household District. These areas are suitable for most types of apartment and condominium projects and individual multi-unit buildings. Duplexes are also permitted. This area is also suitable for single family residential dwellings on lots having a minimum area of 10,000 square feet.

Public water and sewer service should be provided to these areas. For the most part, Map 2.3 Land Use Plan Map shows High Density Residential areas as those areas within the central core areas of the Town where such development has already taken place. Provision of high density residential uses in more outlying areas would generally be permitted only in designated neighborhood centers or village districts, and only in accordance with strict site planning guidelines and environmental safeguards.

Medium High Density Residential

Zoning districts appropriate for these areas include the R10 and R20 Medium High Density Residential Districts with an average density of 2.2 to 4.35 dwelling units per acre, and lot sizes for single family residential dwellings generally ranging from 10,000 sq. ft. to 20,000 sq. ft., respectively. Duplexes can be located in these areas.

The Wakefield/Peace Dale area and portions of the Village of Kingston are included in such a medium high density residential classification. Smaller areas in Matunuck, Snug Harbor, West Kingston and Middlebridge are also shown in this classification on Map 2.3 Land Use Plan Map to reflect subdivision activity which has already taken place. A neighborhood center/village district approach should be taken toward additional development in these outlying areas. Because they are one of the highest density areas in the Town, special care in site planning must be taken. However, such patterns of residential development can be economically and environmentally sound. While the population density may be high, the existing physical development is varied and extensive. Shopping districts, personal services, community facilities, and public water and sewer generally are available and convenient and support local residents as well as the region. These

areas are highly accessible and are served by a well-developed network of roads and public transit.

This classification reflects the amount and type of development that already has taken place, as well as areas into which future expansion would be appropriate. These areas should be considered a high priority for the provision of public water and sewer service and for general infrastructure upgrading. However, public sewer service in Matunuck, and Snug Harbor is not recommended. A waste water management approach for these areas is preferred. Mixed uses historically have developed and should be permitted to continue and to expand subject to strict zoning and environmental controls. These areas may also contain open space providing recreational opportunities and habitat.

Medium Density Residential

These residential areas are described as having an average density of 1.09 to 1.99 dwelling units per acre. Single-household detached units will be the predominant type of housing, although duplexes will be allowed by special use permit. Conservation type developments should be considered for major subdivision proposals in these areas because they have low visual impact and fit the rural landscape. Lot sizes for single-household dwellings range from 30,000 square feet to 40,000 square feet. Zoning districts appropriate for these areas are R30 and R40 Medium Density Residential Districts. These districts may also include open space and conservation lands.

Medium density residential areas are found in both the central Wakefield/ Peace Dale and Kingston Village areas, as well as such outlying villages as Green Hill, Perryville and Usquepaugh. There are distinct patterns of development which have shaped these areas over the Town's history. They are also the transition zones within the Town, where new development efforts have begun and are expected to continue. Eventually, these areas will be substantially filled and will require additional services and facilities. Water service generally is available to these areas or could easily be provided. While public sewers presently serve some of these areas, public sewers should not be considered for the outlying villages as designated on Map 2.1 Villages, except for Middlebridge and the industrially zoned area of West Kingston. Sewer service should be concentrated within Wakefield/Peace Dale and Kingston.

Major new growth of residential subdivisions should be restricted to the areas of medium density in the central Town areas and discouraged from the outlying villages. Subdivisions carry a strong feeling of suburbanization, and care should be taken to require site planning to avoid look-alike plats and roadside frontage lots. The potential for a sprawling housing pattern must be avoided throughout the Town.

In the outlying villages, the traditional character of a New England village must be retained and enhanced in future development. A well-defined village center which may contain non-residential uses must be emphasized. Surrounding residential uses should relate to the village center through site planning and circulation patterns.

Low Density Residential

These residential areas are described as having an average density of up to 0.55 dwellings per acre. The lot size for single-household detached dwellings is 80,000 square feet. These are

primarily rural areas not served by public facilities, and in which intensive development should not occur. They are characterized by low density residential development, large estates, agriculture and certain low intensity nonresidential activities incidental to a rural environment. Public water service may be provided, but public sewers are discouraged in favor of waste water management districts and water conservation practices. This district may also include open space, conservation lands, and lands unsuitable for development. Portions of this district are within the High Flood Danger (HFD) Overlay District. The zoning district appropriate for these areas is the R80 Rural Residential Low Density District.

Very Low Density Residential/Open Space

This classification allows a residential density of up to 0.2 dwellings per acre and minimum lot size for single-household dwellings of 200,000 square feet to reflect the R 200 Rural Very Low Density District which comprises so much of these areas as shown on Map 2.3 Land Use Plan Map.

The primary purpose of this classification is to provide protection to sensitive environmental resources, such as groundwater reservoirs, recharge areas and coastal pond watersheds. It provides a residential density low enough to discourage the conversion of open lands and farmlands to more intensive use, while still allowing reasonable economic use of the land.
It also includes privately-owned open spaces, freshwater wetlands, and such coastal features as barrier beaches and salt marshes, and farmlands. Special zoning and site plan review provisions apply to development within these areas to ensure maximum preservation of natural features.

Public water service may be provided, but public sewers are discouraged in favor of waste water management districts and water conservation practices. It is very important that residential subdivisions which are created here do not contribute to urban sprawl. Large-lot zoning of this type is intended to protect important natural resources, but it may have the undesirable side effect of spreading individual houses across the landscape on two- to five- acre lots. The use of cluster zoning techniques which preserve large open spaces and farmland while allowing limited residential development is encouraged. The use of flexible and innovative zoning techniques which preserve agricultural land, surface and groundwater resources, and scenic areas may also apply. Portions of this district are within the High Flood Danger (HFD) Overlay District.

2.2 Commercial Land Use

Commercial land uses include those activities predominantly used for distribution of or merchandising goods and services. This classification is intended to designate those areas of the community in which wholesale and retail trade activities are permitted, along with a wide range of personal service establishments, cultural, entertainment and public and quasi-public services. They include the core of the Town's business area and are centered along the traditional Main Street and Dale Carlia areas of Town. However, each of these two business areas has distinct patterns of historical development and is designated in Map 2.4 Land Use Plan Wakefield Detail.

Downtown Commercial

This is the original business area of the Town which developed in the latter part of the 19th and early 20th century along Wakefield's Main Street and adjacent side streets, from approximately Belmont Avenue to Holley Street. The Downtown Commercial areas are characterized by

buildings with little or no setback requirements or off-street parking, a mix of land uses, and a pedestrian scale. Numerous historic structures exist as well as new buildings and reconstructed properties. It is important for these areas to maintain their historic qualities and "Main Street" character with small-scale retail centers designed to provide local business service to the Town. Primary uses include neighborhood retail, commercial offices, restaurant and entertainment, and may also include residential uses.

Highway Commercial

These areas developed during the 1950's around Dale Carlia intersection and along Tower Hill Road. They represent an orientation toward the automobile, with sufficient off-street parking areas and direct traffic access to major highways. The predominant pattern is the shopping center, where several individual stores are planned and owned as a unit on the same parcel of land, but also may include many individual single-unit buildings and uses as well. Such retail uses as gas stations, fast food establishments and the larger supermarkets predominate in shopping centers. Also included are such uses as repairing, open lot sales, wholesale business and storage, all uses subject to performance standards. This area needs special controls to avoid strip commercial appearance, poor signage and traffic congestion.

Neighborhood Commercial

These are small-scale retail establishments designed to provide local business service to residential neighborhoods or villages throughout the Town. They provide for a variety of mixed uses within specially designed retail areas which include office uses and specific public and semi-public uses with single and multi-household residential development under special conditions, all of which must meet certain design/site planning requirements.

A small area of Neighborhood Commercial land use is shown on Map 2.3 Land Use Plan Map at the intersection of U.S. Route 1 and Route 138. This area has already developed in the form of an automobile dealership, restaurant, gas stations, etc. It is the intent of this Plan to permit the continuation of these highway commercial uses to their peak potential, but to discourage any expansion thereof. This area has poor soils and significant areas of bedrock. Provision of public water in the future may be permitted, particularly if area wells become contaminated, but such water line extensions should not be used to justify commercial expansion. Residential development is excluded from these areas.

Commercial Shore

Waterfront commercial areas recognize the use of the waterfront areas of the Town for such marine-oriented businesses as marinas, fishing, marine services, and commercial docks. They are located primarily at the Village of Snug Harbor, Marina Park in Wakefield, as well as smaller locations in the Town.

Mixed Use

These are established within the Kingstown Road Special Management District in order to provide a mixture of residential and limited commercial uses as provided in the Comprehensive Community Plan.

2.3 Industrial Land Use

Industrial land uses include those uses which contain facilities for the general manufacture or assembly of raw or partially processed products. It also provides for the related activities of warehousing; storage and/or transportation. Light industrial areas in the Town are also designated for non-intensive manufacture and assembly and for mixed commercial/industrial operations. Three classifications of industrial land use are established:

Industrial One

Industrial operations permitted within these areas may include manufacturing and wholesale storage and distribution activities within existing manufacturing areas in West Kingstown, existing mills in Wakefield and Peace Dale, and new locations for such activities, as follows:

Wakefield/Peacedale – Industrial operations permitted within these areas may include manufacturing and wholesale storage and distribution facilities. These areas are intended to recognize the existing mills and other industrial areas in Peace Dale and Wakefield around which the Town's economy historically has developed and also to provide for new locations without significant environmental constraints. However, a high level of environmental protection also must be enforced in these areas to avoid any degradation of existing natural resources. Public water and sewer service is mandatory for these areas. Any industry or process which would create environmental hazards or generate significant quantities of hazardous waste or pollutants is prohibited.

West Kingston - The Industrial One area covers the existing manufacturing district located in West Kingston. This is an area with environmental limitations but already has been developed as a significant area of light manufacturing, wholesale operations and storage facilities. This area is not to be used for any activity which would constitute a threat to either ground or surface waters or adjacent wetlands. It will be limited to clean operations which do not generate significant quantities of waste water and which are not water intensive. The provisions of the Groundwater Protection Overlay District will apply to this area. Public water and sewer service may be provided to these areas.

Industrial Two

A classification of industrial land use is established to cover proposed activities designated on the west side of Rose Hill Road and is created to provide for certain businesses and/or industrial operations that do not require traditional industrial park or commercial district locations. Such uses exhibit characteristics of, industrial operation as well as retail or wholesale business uses. They include automotive-related repair and service, outdoor yard storage, warehousing, multi-purpose trade centers, wholesale and retail sales of landscape and building materials and the like. Extractive operations, including the storage of sand and gravel would be permitted, but processing of these materials or the manufacture of concrete or asphalt and similar operations would be prohibited. Industries should be well screened from adjacent public streets and buffered from surrounding residential uses. Public water and sewer service is not a prerequisite but may be provided.

Industrial Three

This classification of industrial land use is established to cover the existing manufacturing zone on the west side of North Road in Peace Dale. Permitted uses would include extractive operations and processing of sand and gravel, and the manufacture of asphalt and concrete and related products. Public water and sewer may be provided to these areas but is not required.

2.4 Government and Institutional

This category includes major land holdings of the Town, State and Federal governments or their agencies, major semi-public institutions, fire districts, and land designated under CERCLA. It also includes land of the University of Rhode Island, the largest institution in the Town of South Kingstown, and South County Hospital. The purpose of this classification is to recognize the extent of public and semi-public land holdings and to provide guidance to utilization of these lands should they be sold or otherwise transferred to private ownership. A 'Public' zoning category is created for all lands within this classification of land use. Any significant use of land in the areas shown within this classification for proprietary purposes or uses by non-governmental entities, other than health care institutions, shall require rezoning to an appropriate zoning district and shall be subject to zoning review by the Town.

2.5 Open Space, Conservation and Recreation

The classification includes land holdings of the Town, State and Federal government, and are presently are used for such public recreation or conservation purposes as the Great Swamp Management Area or Town-owned parks. It also includes quasi-public or privately-owned land for which there is a reasonable expectation of long-term use for open space, conservation or recreation, such as Audubon Society or Nature Conservancy lands. Farmlands for which development rights have been permanently acquired by agencies such as the State Agricultural Land Preservation Commission are also included in this classification. Certain limited residential, recreational, agricultural and educational uses are permitted. A more detailed breakdown of the various categories within this classification, and policies for future protection is found in the Open Space, Conservation and Recreation Element of this Plan.

2.6 Historic District

Map 2.5 Land Use Plan Kingston Detail indicates an area within the Village of Kingston designated as a Historic District and which has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is covered by special zoning restrictions which apply to all structural exterior building changes, street or traffic improvements, landscaping, erection of signs, and removal of trees. Other historic districts or landmarks are discussed more fully in Appendix F and the Natural and Cultural Resources Element of this Plan.

2.7 Special Areas

In addition to the Land Use Classifications described above, special areas or features as shown on Map 2.3 Land Use Plan Map are further described as follows:

Greenways

Greenways are linear buffers of undeveloped land which follow some of the Town's rivers and streams and serve to separate and provide identity to distinct neighborhoods or developed areas within the Town. They provide relief from suburban development patterns and, provide vegetated buffer strips to help filter stormwater runoff before it enters a waterway. Greenways are shown on Map 2.3 Land Use Plan Map as following the Saugatucket River, the Queens River, and the Chipuxet River corridor linking Hundred Acre Pond, Thirty Acre Pond, Great Swamp and Worden Pond.

Greenways can also be successfully used to provide an open space network which ties together public and private lands in order to protect critical natural resources. The Matunuck Hills area of Town, south of Tuckertown Road, is an example of limited access conservation areas (such as those owned by the Nature Conservancy or the Audubon Society) being combined with large private estate holdings, in order to protect known habitats of rare or endangered species. The South Shore Management Area being promoted by the RIDEM south of Route 1 is a second example of how a greenway can be formed using a combination of public and private land. On Block Island, a similar greenway system has been formed, but which also provides for a system of hiking trails to permit limited public access to these lands. In South Kingstown a series of trails, bicycle paths and pedestrian rights of way could be integrated into certain greenway areas, particularly along the Saugatucket River. These greenway/open space networks are illustrated on Map 2.3 Land Use Plan Map.

In the Wakefield/Peace Dale area, a linear greenway could be implemented along the Saugatucket River and its Indian Run tributary. Such a greenway could be developed as a system of riverside foot or bike paths, perhaps combined with the Narragansett Pier Railroad Bikeway, to meander through the Town and link Town parks, schools and open spaces. In downtown Wakefield, the Town-owned parking lot on the Saugatucket River could be the focal point for a combined greenway and commercial revitalization effort. This area is strategically located and could serve as a catalyst for a combined public/private revitalization effort to link Main Street businesses to the River and to open up neglected riverside land to more active use. A feasibility study of the Greenway concept in general, and the Saugatucket River/Main Street area in particular, must first be conducted in order to advance this concept to the implementation stage.

Bike Paths

The Land Use Plan reflects the policies described in the Circulation Element which avoid reliance upon the automobile as the sole means of transportation within the Town. A well-developed system of bicycle paths includes the William C. O'Neill Bike Path running along the former Narragansett Pier Railroad right of way into the Town of Narragansett towards the Pier, a future spur connecting to the University of Rhode Island is planned. New bike lanes are also contemplated along scenic highways as they are upgraded in the future.

Open Space Conservation & Recreation

The Special Areas indicated on Map 2.3 Land Use Plan Map as Open Space, Conservation and Recreation indicate existing and certain, potential future uses or designations of this type (i.e.: greenways, scenic highways and bicycle paths). Existing Town parks such as Old Mountain Field in Wakefield are shown in this category as is the John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge.

The inclusion of potential greenways, scenic highways and bicycle path corridor extensions on the Land Use Plan is intended only to be an indication of the Town's policy to support the acquisition and/or protection of these areas through implementation measures described elsewhere in this Plan.

Scenic Highways

Major highways identified on Map 2.3 Land Use Plan Map as Scenic Highways include Route 1 and Route 110 and are discussed more fully in the Circulation Element. In addition, special conditions will apply to development along South Road, Woodruff Avenue and Kingstown Road in order to protect their natural character and to avoid strip commercial development where applicable. The use of scenic highway overlay districts within the Zoning Ordinance may apply.

Route 1 Special Management District

This district identified on Map 2.4 Land Use Plan Wakefield Detail, commonly known as "The Village at South County Commons," is located on the west side of Route 1 between the present Wakefield Mall and a large (150 acre) vacant parcel of land located across the highway from and north of the Government Center. This land is highly visible and has been described as the "Gateway to South Kingstown." The area has been developed into a mixed-use center that includes a wide-variety uses such as retail, commercial, office, hotel, theater, etc. This district has been one of the most heavily developed areas in South Kingstown over the past 10 years and is now nearly built out.

Kingstown Road Special Management District

The area of Kingstown Road (Route 108) located between Peace Dale and Kingston is seen as being both dynamic and subject to considerable change, identified on Map 2.6 Land Use Plan Kingstown Road Detail. Kingstown Road is a principal arterial highway of the State. This roadway also serves as a connecting link between the University of Rhode Island and the urbanized downtown areas of Peace Dale and Wakefield, as well as Narragansett and the south shore areas. Due to its strategic location in the Town there is a need for specialized land use planning efforts. Roads like Kingstown Road quite often develop into commercial strips which exacerbate traffic problems and create visual clutter. To prevent this, the purpose of the Kingstown Road Special Management District is threefold:

- To establish land use development policies for the District;
- To provide the basis for regulations which will implement these policies; and,
- To guide private land use decisions affecting future development of private property within the district.

Public Marina Special Management District

This area includes properties located on the southerly side of Salt Pond Road and are referenced as Assessor's Plat 64-4, lot 11 (portion below Salt Pond Road only) and lot 12. Said properties comprise 7.52 acres, plus or minus. The intent of this district is to preserve and enhance the historic uses of the town owned waterfront properties as a marina basin at the north boundary of Point Judith Pond. The district is intended to provide for marine based commercial uses that are

complementary to the historic land use pattern of the area and the public access and recreational resources of the Marina Park facility. The district recognizes the practical requirements necessary for the operation of marine related and other businesses in this public district in balance with the recreational function of Marina Park. All property within this district is subject to the requirements of Section 606 of this ordinance, Carrying Capacity Overlay District. Further, building and construction activities within this district are within the regulatory jurisdiction of the RI Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) and may require approval from such agency, in addition to a permit from the town, to proceed.

3. Population Trends

3.1 General Population Trends

According to the 2010 Census, the population of South Kingstown in 2010 was 30,639 representing a 10 percent increase over the population in 2000 (U.S. Census), Figure 1. This percent increase is below the 13.4 percent increase in the previous decade (1990 to 2000). The population growth was 20.7 percent in the previous decade, when the population grew from 20,414 people in 1980 to 24,631 people in 1990. From 2000 to 2010, the Town added 2,718 year-round residents, representing an average annual increase of 272 people. As Figure 2 indicates, the rate of population growth has continued to decrease over the past two decades. Table 4 presents data trends for South Kingstown, Washington County, and the State of Rhode Island.

Figure 1. Overall Population Increase Over Time.

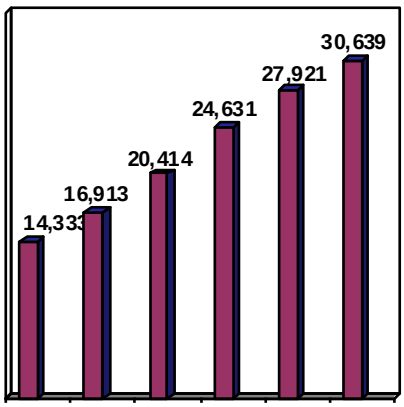
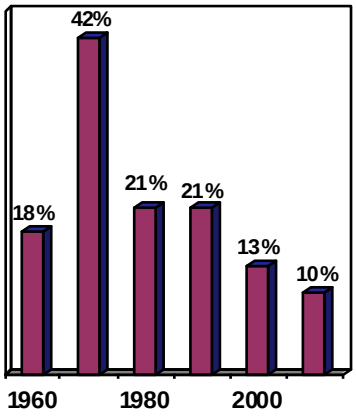


Figure 2. Rate of Population Growth Over Time.



Since the last update (2005), there has been a shift in the source of population growth within South Kingstown. Previous decades have experienced population growth as a result of both in-migration (70 percent) and natural increase (30 percent; births in excess of deaths). Since 2005, the number of deaths has outpaced the number of births (natural decrease), resulting in population growth as a factor of primarily in-migration or people moving into the community. From 2005 – 2009, births have averaged 221 annual births through 2009, while deaths have averaged 228 annual deaths through 2010. This in-migration is significantly influenced by the development of student housing associated with URI and induces population trends that can create misconceptions relative to the expected tax burdens and social services that would otherwise be associated with an increased population.

Table 4. Trends in Total Population (1970-2010)

Year	South Kingstown	Washington County	Rhode Island
2010	30,639	126,979	1,052,567
2000	27,921	123,546	1,048,319
1990	24,631	110,006	1,003,464
1980	20,414	93,317	947,154
1970	19,913	85,706	949,723

South Kingstown	Absolute Growth	Average Annual Growth	Percent Change
2000-2010	2,718	272	10%
1990-2000	3,290	329	13.4%
1980-1990	4,198	420	20.7%
1970-1980	3,501	350	20.7%
Rhode Island			
2000-2010	4,248	425	0.4%
1990-2000	44,855	4,485	4.5%
1980-1990	56,310	5,631	5.9%
1970-1980	-2,567	-257	-0.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2000, 2010; South Kingstown 1992 Comprehensive Plan Update

The current South Kingstown population represents 2.9 percent of the State's population and 24 percent of the population of Washington County. As the South County section of the state has continued to grow, the town's share of the state population has continued to increase from 2.2 percent in 1980, 2.5 percent in 1990, and 2.7 percent in 2000 to 2.9 percent in 2010 (U.S. Census and RI Statewide Planning Program).

As the population has increased, the density of development in town has increased. In 2000 there were 489.0 residents per square mile. In 2010 the Town has 537.5 residents per square mile, a 10 percent increase. Growth at the University of Rhode Island (persons in group quarters) is a significant contributing factor to the overall increase in the community's population increase. According to 2010 Census figures, growth at URI accounts for nearly half the increase of the Town's overall increase.

3.2 Age

The University of Rhode Island's presence in South Kingstown creates a population that is, on the average, younger than other Rhode Island communities. The 2010 Census gives the median age in Town as 35.7 years (younger than the state as a whole but higher than the 33.6 median age in 2000). This represents a 6.3 percent increase over the 2000 median age and a 28.8 percent increase over the 1990 median age of 27.7 years (Table 5). The large resident student population living in group quarters and off-campus (5,677 persons in the Kingston census tract) will continue to affect the median age of the Town. The census tract dominated by URI has a 19.6 median age while the median age in the other six tracts ranges from 39.8 to 48.9.

Table 5. Median Age, South Kingstown/Washington County/Rhode Island (1980 to 2010)

Year	South Kingstown	Washington County	Rhode Island
2010	35.7	41.4	39.5
2000	33.6	37.4	36.7
1990	27.7	34.0	34.0
1980	24.3	28.5	31.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2000, 2010; 2005 South Kingstown Comprehensive Plan Update

3.3 Household Characteristics

In the 2010 census South Kingstown had 10,316 households including 6,639 family households, 41.0 percent of which included their own children under age 18. The 2010 US Census reports that 28.2 percent of households included individuals under 18 and 28.4 percent had individuals 65 years and over. The average household size was 2.43 and the average family size was 2.97.

Of the 13,218 total housing units, 78.0 percent was occupied, 17.5 percent was seasonal, recreational, or occasional use, and the remainder was vacant. Of the 10,316 occupied housing units, 72.6 percent was owner occupied and 27.4 percent was renter occupied. The average household size of an owner occupied unit was 2.60 persons while the average household size of a rented unit was 1.99.

3.4 Minority Population

For people reporting one race alone, 91 percent were White; 2 percent were Black or African American; 1 percent was American Indian and Alaska Native; 3 percent were Asian; and 1 percent reported some other race. Two percent reported two or more races. Three percent of the people in South Kingstown were Hispanic.

Table 6 presents minority population census data for the town, county and state for 2010. Table 7 identifies racial characteristics of the town from 1980 to 2010. As indicated, the minority population of South Kingstown has remained fairly stable with a slight increase in the Hispanic category.

Table 6. Minority Population, South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island (2010)

	Minority Groups			Total Minority	As a percentage of total Population
	Two or more races	Non-white	Hispanic White		
South Kingstown	665	2,802	869	4,336	14.3%
Washington County	2,314	5,529	3,026	10,869	8.6%
Rhode Island	34,787	195,698	130,655	361,140	34.3%

Source: US Census Bureau 2010.

Table 7. Percent Distribution of Racial Characteristics of South Kingstown, 1980 to 2010

Year	1980	1990	2000	2010
White	93.4	93.3	91.1	90.9
One Race				
African American	1.8	1.4	1.6	2.2
American Indian[A]	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.2
Asian	1.3	3.0	3.1	2.7
Other[B]	0.7	0.3	0.8	0.9
Hispanic Origin[C]	0.8	1.2	1.8	2.8
Total Population	20,414	24,631	27,921	30,639

[A] Includes Eskimo and Aluet

[B] Includes Eurasians, inter-racial, Mexican, Cuban, Puerto Rican, South American, Chicano or La Razo

[C] Hispanic origin numbers are included in previous categories

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2000, 2010; South Kingstown 1992 Comprehensive Plan Update

4. Build-Out Analysis

The Town performs build-out analyses on a regular basis to estimate the development potential if it were to be entirely developed under the provisions of existing zoning. It is a hypothetical exercise which paints a picture of the end result of existing regulations and policies. There are two major reasons for performing these analyses. The numbers generated in these calculations can help identify critical issues (e.g. land shortage or surplus) which need to be considered in the formulation of policies and implementation strategies designed to address them. It is emphasized that the build-out analyses developed by the Town are not endorsements of the development of certain areas of the Town which are relatively free of development constraints. Rather, they are an indicator of the future results of existing or proposed land use policies.

4.1 Methodology

The Town utilized updated RIGIS Land Use, Zoning and Tax Assessor data to complete the build-out analysis. The model was run with the following updated information:

- Parcels GIS data layer;
- Protected Open Space GIS data layer;
- Local Knowledge*/Land Use GIS data layer;
- Residential unit tabular data from Town's IT Department; and
- Pre-Approved multi- and single-family residential unit information.

* Local Knowledge is defined as residentially-zoned parcels, such as cemeteries where no house will ever be built, or completed subdivisions known to be built-out due to restrictions placed on them at time of approval, as illustrated on Map 2.8 Vacant Developable Land. These parcels are removed from the Build-out to make the analysis more accurate.

The model excludes constrained areas like wetlands and protected open space from developable land. Assumptions for density, actual number of people, number of people per household and others. In general, the build-out analysis was run based on the following assumptions.

- All land that is not water or wetlands has potential for new units;
- Constrained land (non-residential zones, open space, local knowledge areas) removed;
- Minimum lot size per zoning;
- 15% subdivision efficiency;
- 50% subdivision efficiency on developed land;
- 50% hydric soils outside wetland areas;
- 2.56 persons / single-family unit; and
- 1.25 persons / multi-family unit.

4.2 Results of Build-Out Analyses

Under current assumptions regarding zoning density, site efficiency, and other assumptions, the results of the model show the Town with the potential for an additional 5,096 units, and 12,010 residents at full build-out in. This represents the future potential for a total population of 42,649 residents and 18,314 housing units by 2027 for multi-family (48.5 units / year) and 2049 for single-family units (113.4 units / year). The Municipal Build-out Analysis is included in Appendix C as a reference, and summarizes maximum future build-out under existing Zoning Ordinance provisions.

5. Housing Conditions

Some of the information provided in this section of the Plan relies on the South Kingstown Housing Production Plan developed in 2004 and subsequently appended to the 2005 update of the Comprehensive Plan. Where more current information for income and home price were available, these are included. While the information is still useful in preparing housing strategies for the community, some information does pre-date an enormous economic crisis that began when a "housing bubble" burst and sent homeowners and lending institutions into default and insolvency. As a result, the information provided here, whether it is current or not, and the resulting policies surrounding housing development exist in a more uncertain climate. Where housing strategies previously relied heavily on these statistics and analyses, approaches to neighborhood stabilization and housing diversity today are based more on partnerships with key organizations and connecting those in need with training and funds. The Housing Element of this plan therefore maintains consideration of this baseline information, but also provides a strong community focus that will help to sustain a positive social relationship with homeowners and renters of all incomes and the community at large.

5.1 South Kingstown Households

South Kingstown experienced a significant population growth from 2000-2010, growing from a Town of 27,921 according to 2000 Census data, to a Town of 30,639 in 2010. This increase of 9.7% is significantly more than the population growth experienced by the State as a whole (see Table 8). From 2000 to 2010, Rhode Island grew 4.0%, from 1,048,319 to 1,052,567. The steady increase in South Kingstown's population continues to put pressure on housing opportunities—particularly affordable housing opportunities—within the Town.

Table 8. South Kingstown and Rhode Island Households Trends, 1990-2010

	South Kingstown			Rhode Island		
	Total Population	*Total Households*	*Persons per Household*	*Total Population*	*Total Households*	*Persons per Household*
1990	24,631	7,428	2.61	1,003,464	377,977	2.55
2000	27,921	9,268	2.56	1,048,319	408,424	2.47
2010	30,639	10,316	2.43	1,052,567	413,600	2.44

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 1990, 2000, 2010

5.2 Housing Stock

Table 9 shows that housing production in South Kingstown has kept pace with population growth in the Town. From 2000 to 2010, the number of housing units in South Kingstown increased from 11,291 to 13218—a 17.0% increase in units. However, while the number of housing units increased during this time, so did the median sale price of houses, until a 15% drop in the first half of 2009 was realized. According to Housing Works RI, $290,000 was the average house price in 2010 for South Kingstown, which translates to a household income of $86,121 required to afford the 'average' house in Town. According to Rhode Island Housing, an income of $68,896 is the affordability threshold for low to moderate income households, these prices are well out of the affordability range for low- and moderate-income South Kingstown residents. (Housing prices are discussed in greater detail below.)

Owner-occupied units in South Kingstown in 2010 comprised 72.6% of the Town's total occupied housing units. This is down from 74.9% in 2000. A slight increase in the percentage of owner-occupied units is seen in Washington County as a whole, which went from 72.8% to 73.2% owner-occupancy. Rhode Island's total owner-occupancy rate remains relatively steady at 60.7%. Conversely, the number of renter-occupied units in South Kingstown increased 2.3% from 2000 to 2010. Renter-occupied units in Washington County decreased 0.4%, and Rhode Island's renter-occupancy rate remained steady around 3.7%. (see Table 9)

Seasonal housing units, which are a significant portion of South Kingstown's housing stock, also increased from 1,726 in 2000 to 2,318 in 2010. This could be attributed to the economic downturn and more people choosing to rent their second/vacation homes for additional income.

Table 9. Housing Tenure and Ownership 1980-2010 South Kingstown, Washington County & Rhode Island

	South Kingstown		Washington County		Rhode Island	
	Number of Units	*Percent of Total*	*Number of Units*	*Percent of Total*	*Number of Units*	*Percent of Total*
Total Units						
1980	8138		40,899		372,672	
1990	9,806		49,856		414,572	
2000	11,291		58,816		439,837	
2010	13,218		62,206		463,388	
Percent Increase						
1980-1990	20.5%		21.9%		11.2%	
1990-2000	15.1%		18.0%		6.1%	
2000-2010	17.1%		5.7%		5.4%	
Occupied Units						
1980	5843	71.8%	31,081	76.0%	338,590	90.9%
1990	7,428	75.7%	39,311	78.8%	377,977	91.2%
2000	9,268	82.1%	46,907	79.8%	408,424	92.9%
2010	10,316	78.0%	49,177	79.1%	413,600	89.3%
Owner-Occupied Units						
1980	4119	70.5%	21,293	68.5%	196,044	57.9%
1990	5,189	69.9%	27,082	68.9%	224,792	59.5%
2000	6,944	74.9%	34,164	72.8%	245,156	60.0%
2010	7,486	72.6%	36,003	73.2%	250,952	60.7%
Renter-Occupied Units						
1980	1724	29.5%	9,788	31.5%	142,546	42.1%
1990	2,239	30.1%	12,229	31.1%	153,185	40.5%
2000	2,324	25.1%	12,743	27.2%	163,268	40.0%
2010	2,830	27.4%	13,174	26.8%	162,648	39.3%
Seasonal Units						
1980	1752	21.5%	6,606	16.2%	10,039	2.7%
1990	1,994	20.3%	8,000	16.0%	12,037	2.9%
2000	1,726	15.3%	8,157	13.9%	12,988	3.0%
2010	2,318	22.5%	9,984	16.0%	17,077	3.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010

5.3 Unit Distribution

In 2007-2009, 78% of South Kingstown's 12,912 housing units were single family homes, slightly down from 2000, when 81.9% of 11,921 housing units were single family homes. 2007-2009 data also shows that approximately 14.0% of South Kingstown housing units were located in multifamily structures between 1 and 10 units. Residential structures with more than 10 units accounted for 6.7% of the total unit distribution in the Town in 2007-2009, up from 4.7% in 2005-2007. Table 10, below, gives a breakdown and comparison of unit distribution for single family attached, multifamily, and other types of housing units in the Town according to 2005-2009 American Community Survey data.

Table 10. Housing Stock Distribution (2005 – 2007 and 2007 - 2009)

	2005-2007	% of Total	2007-2009	% of Total
Number of Units	12,081	100.0%	12,912	100.0%
Single Family Home	9,528	78.9%	10,071	78.0%
1 Unit Attached	268	2.2%	269	2.1%
2 to 4 Units	903	7.5%	923	7.1%
5 to 9 Units	485	4.0%	597	4.6%
10 or More Units	563	4.7%	860	6.7%
Mobile Home	326	2.7%	192	1.5%
Boat, RV, Van, etc.	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Source: American Community Survey 2005-2007, 2007-2009.

5.4 Age of Housing

South Kingstown's housing stock is an eclectic mix of historic structures (some dating to the early 18th century), homes built during the boom years after World War II, and many newer homes as well. Table 11, depicts the age of housing in the Town.

Table 11. Age of Housing Stock Town of South Kingstown (2007-2009)

Year Structure Built	Number of Units	% of Total
2005 or later	766	5.9%
2000-2004	1,156	9.0%
1990-1999	1,751	13.5 %
1980-1989	2,027	15.7%
1970-1979	1,847	14.3%
1960-1969	1,155	9.0%
1940-1959	1,729	13.4%
1939 or earlier	2,481	19.2%
Total	12,912	100%

Source: American Community Survey 2007-2009.

5.5 Income Data

According to American Community Survey data, the median family income in South Kingstown in 2007-2009 was $91,545, almost double of what was reported by the Census in 2000 ($56,325). Although incomes of South Kingstown residents have made substantial gains in the last 20 years, these gains have not kept pace with skyrocketing housing market in the area. South Kingstown residents continue to outpace residents within Washington County and State overall, a detailed breakdown of this income data, including a comparison of income data from South Kingstown, Washington County and Rhode Island from 2005-2009 is shown in Tables 12 and 13 below.

Table 12. Median Family Income 2005-2007(in 2007 inflation-adjusted dollars) and 2007 – 2009 (in 2009 inflation-adjusted dollars) , South Kingstown, Washington County & Rhode Island

Year	South Kingstown	Washington County	Rhode Island
2005-2007	$90,039	$82,665	$68,740
2007-2009	$91,545	$89,008	$70,835
Percent Change			
2007-2009	1.02%	1.08%	1.03%

Source: American Community Survey 2005-2007, 2007-2009.

Table 13. Household Income Comparison 2007 - 2009, South Kingstown, Washington County & Rhode Island (in 2009 inflation-adjusted dollars)

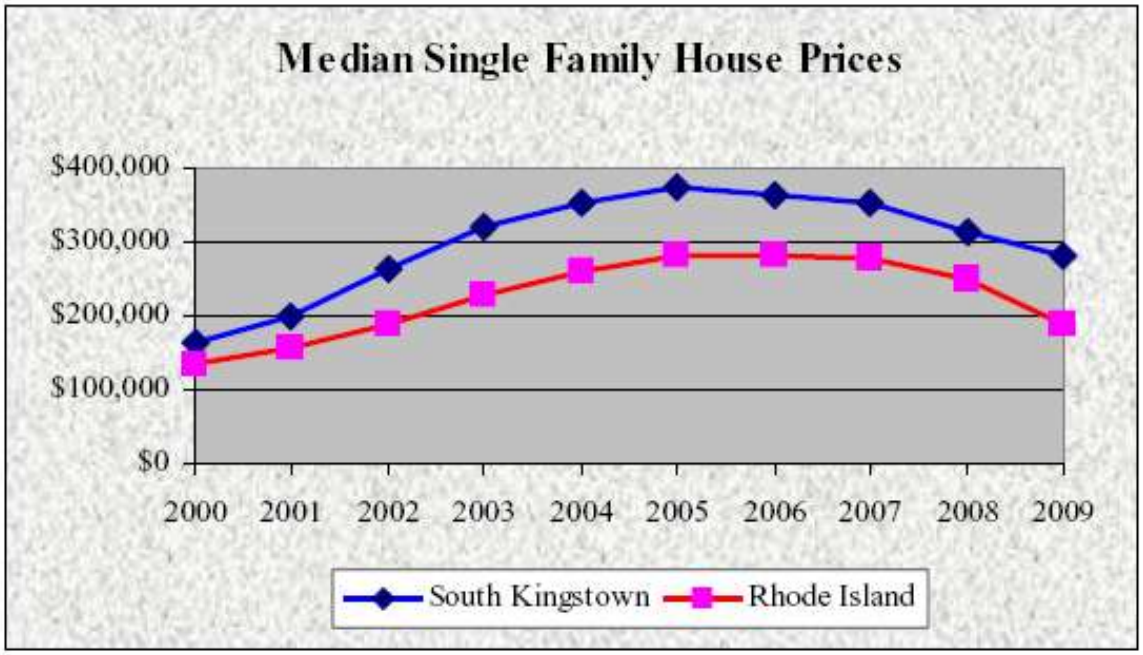
	South Kingstown		Washington County		Rhode Island	
	Households	Percent of Total	Households	Percent of Total	Households	Percent of Total
Households	10,199	100%	48,299	100%	402,882	100%
Less than $10,000	513	5.0%	2,155	4.5%	31,809	8.2%
$10,000 - $14,999	448	4.4%	1,676	3.5%	23,734	6.3%
$15,000 - $24,999	864	8.5%	3,926	8.1%	40,072	10.3%
$25,000 - $34,999	831	8.1%	3,724	7.7%	37,206	10.0%
$35,000 - $49,999	765	7.5%	5,505	11.3%	36,212	9.0%
$50,000 - $74,999	1,867	18.3%	8,773	18.2%	72,013	18.0%
$75,000 - $99,999	1,313	12.9%	6,622	13.7%	55,597	14.0%
$100,000 - $149,999	1,885	18.5 %	8,720	18.1 %	55,424	14.0 %
$150,000 - $199,999	1,084	10.6%	3,933	8.1%	19,130	5.2%
$200,000 or More	629	6.2%	3,265	6.8%	16,170	5.0%
Median Family Income	$91,545		$89,008		$70,835	
80% of Median	$73,236		$71,206		$56,668	
50% of Median	$45,773		$44,504		$35,418	
30% of Median	$27,464		$26,702		$21,251	

Source: American Community Survey 2007 - 2009

5.6 Housing Prices: Homeownership Houses

The median sale price of a single-family home in South Kingstown dropped to $286,250 in 2009, compared to 2008 median sales price of $316,000. The sale price of the average home in South Kingstown in 1999 was $153,000. Therefore, the ten year appreciation in value of the median single family house in South Kingstown increased by approximately 87%. Figure 3 demonstrates the gap between local housing prices and the statewide average selling price of a median priced home. The Statewide average sale price in July 2009 was $199,900 or $113,650 less than the average sale price in South Kingstown of $286,250 (Housing Works RI, RIEDC).

Figure 3. Median Price of Single Family Homes in South Kingstown and Statewide (2000-2009)



5.7 Housing Prices: Rental Housing

The average rental cost of a two-bedroom apartment in South Kingstown in 2009 was $1,259. This price is affordable for households earning at least $46,800 per year. Since about 3,038 South Kingstown households earn less than this in 2009, some—including people who have lived in South Kingstown all their lives—are forced to spend more than 30% of their incomes on households expenses, or even to seek housing outside of the Town.

Table 14 below, compares the changes in average rental rates in South Kingstown and the State of Rhode Island from 1990-2009, according to 1990 and 2000 Census and Housing Works RI data. It must be noted that the rental rates given by the census are lower than other reported rental rates advertised in local newspapers. The data found in the following table should be used to understand and illustrate the dramatic increase in rental rates over the past several decades.

For instance, according to this table, rental rates increased 91.2% in South Kingstown from 2000 – 2009, and 34.9% from 1990-2000. This increase is actually higher than the increase in ownership housing prices during the same time period. Furthermore, this leap in rental housing prices is

disproportionate to the increase in the median income in South Kingstown from 2000 - 2009. The median income rose 63%, while rental rates rose 91.2%. These statistics clearly demonstrate that South Kingstown families—both owners and renters—will continue to be priced out of the housing market if recent trends persist.

Table 14. Change in Rental Rates 2005-2007 and 2007-2009 South Kingstown, Washington County, Rhode Island

	1990	2000	2009
South Kingstown			
Average Monthly Rent	$486	$656	$1,259
Percent Change		34.90%	91.2%
Rhode Island			
Average Monthly Rent	$416	$553	$1,170
Percent Change		32.90%	115.7%

Source: 1990, 2000 Census, Housing Works RI.

6. Economic Development

6.1 Introduction

Like many New England communities, South Kingstown's economic heritage is rooted in agriculture. As noted in the Cultural Resources Element, agriculture was traditionally the dominant economic activity and farmsteads are still visible across the landscape of the town. Farming gave way to manufacturing during the nineteenth century. Grist mills and saw mills transformed villages such as Wakefield, Peace Dale and Rocky Brook into thriving communities. Later in the 1800's, textile mills and fulling mills were also established. Following this, the role of the shore gained prominence in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as it developed to serve a growing influx of summer visitors and residents. The Town became the home of a new railroad station and a new State university, two economic components still of notable significance.

From 1980-2000, by virtually every economic performance measurement, it is clear that South Kingstown shared in the general economic expansion and prosperity of the time. The residential and commercial development industries were thriving during this timeframe and the town was in a period of economic growth. This trend has slowed in recent history in South Kingstown, as with many communities across the U.S., due to the national economic decline in the early 21st century. Today, South Kingstown remains poised to take advantage of its economic opportunities such as its growing tourist economy, sustained agriculture and aquaculture activities, available vacant commercial and industrial space, and strong local workforce.

6.2 Employment

For 2009, the annual, average labor force in the Town of South Kingstown was 15,682 with employment at 14,246, yielding and average unemployment rate of 9.2%. Between 2008 and 2009, employment in South Kingstown decreased by 431 (-3.1%) jobs. Private sector employers reported a loss of 261 (-2.6%) jobs, while public sector employment fell by 171 (-4.4%) jobs (see Table 15). In comparison, statewide total employment fell by 21,198 (-4.5%) jobs.

Table 15. South Kingstown Employment by Sector

Established Employment	2002	2007	2008	2010
Total Private & Government	11,880	13,675	13,761	13,330
Total Private Only	8,414	9,804	9,894	9,633
Government	3,466	3,871	3,867	3,696
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,946	2,508	2,566	2,524
Retail Trade	1,368	1,517	1,420	1,330
Accommodations & Food Services	1,043	1,228	1,230	1,279
Manufacturing	876	794	793	739
Wholesale Trade	573	729	786	785
Other Services	721	766	752	718
Professional & Technical Services	350	364	397	308
Construction	348	391	350	283
Educational Services	109	243	271	270
Administrative Support & Waste Management	223	261	269	246
Finance and Insurance	195	268	250	244
Real Estate & Rental& Leasing	96	94	204	289
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	188	205	196	224
Information	167	123	169	149
Transportation & Warehousing	101	160	109	130
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	92	95	85	73
Management of Companies & Enterprises	*	19	19	24
Mining	*	*	*	*
Utilities	*	*	*	*

** Source: Department of Labor & Training, South Kingstown Labor Force Statistics (not seasonally adjusted)*

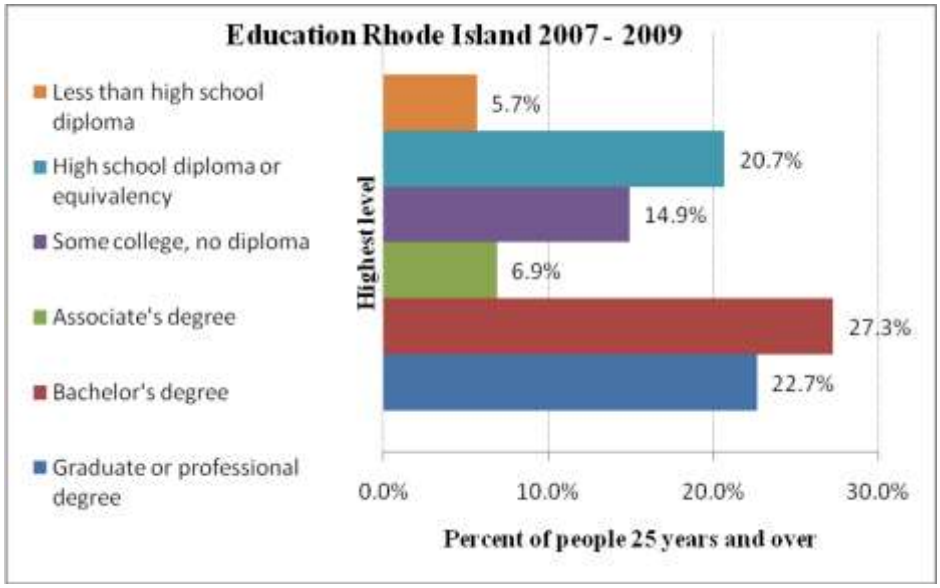
6.3 Travel to Work

Seventy-nine percent of South Kingstown workers drove to work alone in 2007-2009, 9 percent carpooled, 1 percent took public transportation, and 7 percent used other means. The remaining 4 percent worked at home. Among those who commuted to work, it took them on average 22.9 minutes to get to work (American Community Survey 2007 – 2009).

6.4 Education

In 2007-2009, 93 percent of people 25 years and over in South Kingstown had at least graduated from high school and 50 percent had a bachelor's or associate's degree, see Figure 4. Approximately 7.4% were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school. The total school enrollment in South Kingstown was 10,487 in 2007-2009. Nursery school and kindergarten enrollment was 445 and elementary or high school enrollment was 4,702 children. College or graduate school enrollment was 5,340.

Figure 4. Education Achievement in South Kingstown Population



Source: American Community Survey 2007 – 2009

7. Natural Resources Inventory

The Town of South Kingstown is endowed with abundant natural resources including Block Island Sound beaches, salt ponds, and estuaries. These marine and estuarine resources benefit not just residents but attract tourists from throughout New England. These resources are augmented by freshwater marshes and open water in a series of ponds including Worden's Pond, and rivers connecting upland resource areas with the tidal estuaries. The varied landscape provides critical habitat to more threatened and endangered species than any other Rhode Island community. The Chipuxet River Aquifer, a sole source aquifer, provides high quality groundwater to the four public water suppliers in town and provides the source for many of the private residential, agricultural, commercial and industrial wells in town.

The 1992 Comprehensive Plan provided a detailed narrative of the Town's Natural Resources Inventory in pursuit of proactive protection strategies, a balanced pattern of residential and commercial growth, and to promote a broader public consciousness of the issues. This inventory remains relatively unchanged, and includes: geology (bedrock/surficial/coastal; soils; wetlands (freshwater/coastal); groundwater; watersheds; upland vegetation; rare and endangered species; state and federal lands; open space; agricultural land; areas of critical concern; and, flood zones.

This update contains a series of maps relative to many of the resources listed above. Map 5.2 Watersheds and Subwatersheds, Map 5.3 Critical and Environmentally Sensitive Areas, Map 5.4 Agricultural Resources, and Map 5.5 Groundwater Resources display updated information on locations and classification of natural resources where such information is available. More detailed information on the Natural Resources Inventory is contained within Appendix E.

8. Cultural Resources Inventory

Cultural resources help define the identity of a town by providing continuity of time and place. The cumulative effects of circumstances unique to each place cultivate, over time, a locale-specific character. This character is embodied in the historic buildings, structures, and sites, as well as the prehistoric sites that comprise the town. Map 5.6 Cultural Resources illustrates the Town's inventory of the cultural resources.

Since the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) in 1966, awareness of local cultural resources has grown and tremendous strides have been made toward preserving the buildings, structures, and sites that reflect the unique history and individual character of a town. The Town of South Kingstown, with its rich and varied history, has long recognized the importance of preserving the cultural features that contribute to its singular identity. More detailed information on the Cultural Resources Inventory is contained within Appendix F.

9. Open Space and Recreation Facilities Inventory

Physical fitness and personal health have become an important part of most Americans' lives today. The provision of public recreational activities and facilities and open spaces benefit not only individuals by providing a sense of participation and accomplishment, but also the Town by creating a sense of community. As the community continues to grow, the demand for additional and varied recreational opportunities also increases. It is the responsibility of the Town to provide recreational opportunities for all citizens regardless of age, interest or ability. There also is a need to preserve open space for passive recreation and the preservation of environmental quality.

Open space areas create the small town character that so many residents value. Open space is also a means for preserving wildlife habitat, scenic vistas and unique natural features of which South Kingstown has many noteworthy sites. In addition, open space can be used to create natural buffers to lessen the impacts of development on the environment and protect such natural resources as aquifer and recharge areas and shorelines. Open space protection remains an ongoing effort for the Town, with the Planning Department serving as the Town's lead, working in cooperation with the Partnership for Preservation (SK Land Trust, Narrow River Land Trust, US Fish and Wildlife, RIDEM, The Nature Conservancy, and the Champlin Foundation). The partnership works to address the needs of a growing population through evaluating opportunities for open space acquisition based on availability of property, fiscal resources, and potential value added to the community. The community has experienced a steady increase in protected open space over the past decade and the partnership continues to identify opportunities to meet the community's needs in the future.

Outdoor recreation, as in other towns, is an important part of many people's leisure activities, as well as personal health regimes. The Town's many physical characteristics, including the oceanfront, salt ponds, lakes and streams, and playing fields offer an array of recreational activities. The Healthy Places by Design project (August 2011 to June 2012) sought to engage the community to understand the challenges and opportunities related to public health and the built environment. The major focal points of the Healthy Places by Design process were to increase walkability and bikeability, increase access to recreation, address design of villages and neighborhoods, and increase access to healthy foods. This process also touched on many overlapping issues, such as: planning for villages, multi-modal transportation, public transit, open space preservation, agricultural protection, improving services and facilities, collaboration with URI, and other related topics. The major findings and recommendations of the Healthy Places by Design process include:

- Increase safety and connections of pedestrian and bicycle networks,

- Promote street design that is safe, attractive and efficient for pedestrians, bicyclists and transit riders,
- Plan and implement strategies for a greenways network that is accessible by all users, and
- Plan for and implement strategies to raise awareness of resources and design/redesign existing and future facilities to be safe and functional for all users.

In addition to creating a vital aspect of the social life and public health in the community, outdoor recreation also offers a means for increasing the economic base through tourism. Tourism in South Kingstown has maintained a strong presence despite the lingering recessionary economy. Tourism is the fourth largest industry in the State of Rhode Island (6.8 billion dollar impact in 2008 according to the RIEDC); Due to the abundant natural attractions present and facilities available for visitors Washington County and South Kingstown contribute significantly to this sector of the state economy. In South Kingstown the arts and entertainment and accommodation and food service sectors provided employment for more than 1,600 individuals in 2010; this represents approximately 12% of the jobs in the community. The seasonal tourism economy in the community has in recent years extended toward the shoulder seasons (spring and fall) increasing its positive impact on the community. In addition, lodging and meals tax receipts, which are shared proportionately with the town, provide an increasing share of local revenues helping to lessen the property tax burden on residents.

9.1 Open Space and Recreation Inventory

As part of this Update, the assumptions, approach and methodology for the Open Space/Recreation Needs Analysis utilized for the 1992 Plan were replicated and updated. The Town has adopted a Local Recreation Conservation and Open Space Plan (1990), a copy of which is available in the Planning Department. This Plan was prepared within the guidelines of the Standards for Local Recreation, Conservation and Open Space Plans (Rhode Island State Planning Council, Recreation Resources Review Committee, June 1989). The Town has compiled a series of inventories for recreation and open space sites in South Kingstown which includes all sites available for public use or of public interest and provides information regarding individual site characteristics as well. Sites available for public use include sites that are generally accessible to all users either free or by a fee charged and may include a park, beach, or campground. Sites considered to be within the public interest generally include conservation areas either publicly or privately held which typically are inaccessible to the public but whose protection is deemed to be of community benefit. All sites are classified into one of four jurisdictions including Town, State, Federal and private. Detailed information for the series of inventories was gathered from several sources including the Town Recreation Department, Town Assessor maps and ownership records, selective site visits and input from the local citizenry.

Within recent years, the Parks and Recreation Department has developed partnerships with the local YMCA and two private schools operated by the Diocese of Providence. Through the cooperative sharing of recreational resources such as outdoor athletic facilities and indoor gymnasiums, the recreational needs of the community are addressed more effectively. However, these partnerships still do not sufficiently address the total demand for additional active recreation space particularly indoors.

<u>Site (space) Standards</u>

For the purposes of this plan, the Town has utilized the classification system shown on Table 16, based upon National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standards as well as Town adopted standards.

Site Inventory
Site types (components) and acreages have been listed. Note that several sites fall into more than one category or component.

Site Summary
Table 17 provides a summary of Town owned open space and recreation parcels, while a separate summary of all recreation and open space parcels by site type is presented in Table 18.

Facility Standards
A necessary and important component of many sites includes various facilities such as baseball fields, basketball courts, and tennis courts. The facility standards presented in Table 19 have been adopted by the Town. These standards have been based upon recommendations of NRPA with a few local variations included as well. Variations from NRPA standards include minor deviations in activity classification and/or higher service standards. In addition, there are other facilities for which the Town has no adopted standards (trails, volley ball and other sports.

Facility Inventory
Table 20 summarizes the number, jurisdiction, type, and condition of each facility.

Open Space and Recreational Resources of Community Interest
In addition to the areas inventoried in this element, there are several areas within South Kingstown which fall under one of the following three categories:

- Public/private land and water resources representing important potential for providing outdoor recreation opportunities;
- Unique natural areas and open space of special value requiring protection, and;
- Open space which supports community conservation and development objectives.

Table 21 summarizes the open space acreages by ownership from July 2004 to 2012.

In South Kingstown, there are areas which fall into one or more of the above categories. Many areas are in the coastal pond region or are identified by the Rhode Island Natural Heritage Program as areas containing rare species and/or ecologically significant natural communities. A third important category of unique natural/open space areas requiring protection is aquifer recharge areas. For a discussion of the following areas, refer to the Natural Resources inventory:

- Coastal Ponds
- Factory Pond
- Narrow River
- Natural Heritage Sites
- Aquifers and Recharge Zones

Table 16 Town Space Standards for Open Space and Recreation Areas

Component	Use	Service Area	Desirable Size	Acres/1,000 Population	Desirable Size Characteristics
A. Local/Close-to-Home Space					
Mini Park	Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens	Less than 1/4 mile radius	1 acre or less	0.25 to 0.5 A	Within neighborhoods and in close proximity to apartment complexes, townhouse development or housing for the elderly.
Playground	Primarily for children aged 5-12. Includes an apparatus area for older children and generally a field area for games and informal play, a passive area for older children and an area for court games. Smaller than a neighborhood park but containing similar facilities.	1/4 mile to 1/2 mile	2 to 10 acres	0.5 to 1.5 A	Suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood population - geographically centered with safe walking/biking access. May be developed as a school park facility.
Neighborhood Park	Area for intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, skating, picnicking, wading pools, etc.	1/4 mile to 1/2 mile radius to serve a population up to 5,000	15+ acres	1.0 to 2.0 A	Suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood population - geographically centered with safe walking/biking access. May be developed as a school park facility.
Community Park	Area of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities such as athletic complexes, large swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation such as walking, viewing, sitting, and picnicking. May be any combination of the above depending upon site suitability and community need.	Several neighborh oods. 1 to 2 mile radius.	25+ acres	5.0 to 8.0 A	May include natural features such as water bodies and areas suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood served.

Table 16 Town Space Standards for Open Space and Recreation Areas (continued)

Component	Use	Service Area	Desirable Size	Acres/1,000 Population	Desirable Size Characteristics
B. Space That May Be Local or Regional and is Unique to Each Community					
Linear Park	Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, canoeing and pleasure driving. May include active play areas.	No applicable standard	Sufficient width to protect the resource and provide maximum use.	Variable	Built or natural corridors such as utility rights-of-way, bluff lines, vegetation and roads that link other components of the recreation system or community facilities.
Conservation	Protection and management of the natural/cultural environment with recreation use as a secondary objective. Includes Open Space and undeveloped lands not elsewhere classified.	No applicable standard	Sufficient to protect the resource.	Variable	Variable depending on the resource being protected.
Special Use	Area for intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, skating, picnicking, wading pools, etc.	No applicable standard	Variable depending on desired size.	Variable	Within communities.
The following Special Use sub-categories have been identified by the Town:					
Beach	Waterfront area supporting activities such as sun-bathing and swimming.	No applicable standard	Variable depending on desired size.	Variable	Within communities.
Salt Water/Fresh Water Access	Areas providing other physical or visual access to the water. Includes fishing areas, boat access, scenic overlooks, access strips, etc.	No applicable standard	Variable depending on desired size.	Variable	Within communities.
Other Special Use sub-categories have been identified with no applicable Town standards:					
Campgrounds, Golf, Marinas, Historic, and Gardens.					

Source: National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standards

Table 17 Summary of Existing Town Open Space and Recreation Areas 2010

Site Types	Acreage
All Sites	
Mini Park	5.1
Playground	33.9
Neighborhood Park	46.16
Community Park	259.9
Linear Park	11.1
Special Use	
Beach	19.2
Saltwater Access	2.28
Freshwater Access	2.6
Campgrounds	
Golf	
Marinas	
Historic	
Gardens	0.7
URI	

Source: Town of South Kingstown Recreation Department

Table 18 Summary of Existing Town, State, Federal and Private Open Space and Recreation Areas 2010

Site Types	Acreage
All Sites	
Mini Park	5.6
Playground	57.7
Neighborhood Park	46.16
Community Park	289.9
Linear Park	17.9
Special Use	
Beach	47
Saltwater Access	15.12
Freshwater Access	27.33
Campgrounds	641.5
Golf	194
Marinas	13.3
Historic	5.5
Gardens	0.7
URI	30

Table 19 Town Standards for Facilities

Activity/Facility	Service Radius	No. of Units per Population
Basketball	1/4 mile to 1/2 mile	1 per 5,000 (indoor) 1 per 2,000 (outdoor)
Tennis	1/4 mile to 1/2 mile	1 court per 2,000
Volleyball	1/4 mile to 1/2 mile	1 court per 5,000
Baseball	1/4 mile to 1/2 mile	1 per 4,000; lighted - 1 per 30,000
Soccer	1 to 2 miles	1 per 2,000
Softball	1/4 mile to 1/2 mile	1 per 3,000
Multi-Purpose (Basketball, Volleyball, Tennis)	1 to 2 miles	1 per 1,000

Source: Town of South Kingstown Recreation Department

Table 20 Facilities Inventory, Condition and Summary

TOWN PARKS	ACRES	BASEBALL FIELDS (game)	SOFTBALL FIELDS (game)	BASKET-BALL COURT	PATHS (miles)	PICNIC AREA	PLAY-GROUND	TENNIS COURTS	VOLLEY-BALL COURT	SOCCER FIELDS (game)	INLINE RINK	SKATE PARK	DOG PARK	STAGE AREA
Neighborhood														
Abbie Perry	2.5			1-F			1-F							
Brousseau	5	1-G		1-F*			1-G	2-G		1-G				
Fagan	1.5			1-G		1-F	1-G							
Green Hill	20			1-E		1-E	1-E	2-E	1-F					
Saugatucket	4			1-F*										1-G
Town Farm	3	1-G					1-F							
Treaty Rock	8			1-F*	0.25-F		1-G							
Village Green	6.5						1-G	2-E						1-F
	50.5													
Community														
Curtis Corner MS	53	1-G	1-G		0.5-G		1-G	5-G		2-G				
Old Mountain Field	60	1-G	1-G	2-G	1.5-G	1-F	1-G	4-F			1-F	1-G		
Tuckertown	65	2-G		2-F*	0.5-F	2-E	1-G	2-F*		3-G				
West Kingston	12		2-E	2-E		1-E	1-G	2-G	2-E					
Broad Rock Playfields	151	2-G	1-G		1-G			6-E		2-G			1-E	
	341													
Special Use														
Hazard Garden	1				.25-F									
Marina Park	12				0.5-E	1-G								1-E
Town Beach	20					2-E	1-F*		1-E					
Tri-Pond	99				1.5-G	1-F								
Bike Path	15				7-G									
Domenic Savio Property	13									1-F				
	160													
Town Totals	551.5	8	5	12	13	10	12	25	4	9	1	1	1	3

Table 20 Facilities Inventory, Condition and Summary (continued)

TOWN PARKS	ACRES	BASEBALL FIELDS (game)	SOFTBALL FIELDS (game)	BASKET-BALL COURT	PATHS (miles)	PICNIC AREA	PLAY-GROUND	TENNIS COURTS	VOLLEY-BALL COURT	SOCCER FIELDS (game)	INLINE RINK	SKATE PARK	DOG PARK	STAGE AREA
Non-Town Facilities														
URI								12		3				
Prout		1	1					6		1				
Potter Woods		1		1	0.5	1	1							
YMCA				2										
School Department				5			5			5				
Matunuck CC				1										
Other Facilities Total		2	1	9	0.5	1	6	18	0	9	0	0	0	0
Overall Totals		**10**	**6**	**21**	**14**	**11**	**18**	**43**	**4**	**18**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**3**

Condition Definition:

Excellent (E) In outstanding condition due to regular maintenance, recent or new installation. No or only the slightest cosmetic defects.

Good (G) In fine working order with only a few, relatively limited problems such as minor turf divots, small cracks on surface of tennis or basketball courts, etc.

Fair (F) In working or adequate repair but needs attention such as more extensive turf care, rim (basketball) or new (tennis or basketball) repair, backstop (baseball/softball) repair, etc.

Poor (P) Barely functions or unusable due to extensive drainage problems, missing apparatus, etc.

*Notes: * These facilities are scheduled for planned upgrades as part of the "Pay as You Go" element of the Town's Capital Improvement Plan. Conditions for non-Town facilities were not rated.*

Source: Town of South Kingstown Recreation Department.

Table 21 South Kingstown Open Space Acreage (2012)

Ownership Type	July-04 (acres)	July-05 (acres)	July 06 (acres)	July 07 (acres)	July 08 (acres)	July 09 (acres)	July 10 (acres)	July 11 (acres)	July 12 (acres)
Agricultural Land Preservation Commission	884.6	878.7	972	972	972	972	972	972	956.4
Audubon Society of Rhode Island	659.2	659.2	659.2	659.2	659.2	659.2	659.2	659.2	659.1
Boy Scouts of Rhode Island*	247.8	249.5	249.5	249.5	0*	0*	0*	0*	0*
Cluster / Private	1001.7	950.8	961.5	949.3	949.3	949.3	949.3	988	988
US Fish and Wildlife Service	674	725.4	725.4	725.4	725.4	798.2	798.2	798.2	798.2
Girl Scouts of Rhode Island	178.5	185.9	185.9	185.9	185.9	185.9	185.9	185.9	185.9
Narrow River Land Trust	107.9	107.9	107.9	107.9	107.9	107.9	107.9	107.9	107.9
South Kingstown Land Trust	1920.2	1983	2038.4	2072.8	2088.3	2172	2172.2	2182.7	2247.8
State of Rhode Island	3721.1	3721.1	3595.1	3642.6	3642.6	3642.6	3642.6	3642.6	3642.6
The Nature Conservancy	456.1	456.1	456.1	491.9	491.9	527.3	635.5	635.5	635.5
Town of South Kingstown	653.4	663.5	979.9	979.9	979.9	979.9	992.9	992.9	992.9
Total Acres	10,504.50	10,581.20	10,931.10	11,036.50	10,802.50	10,994.40	11,115.80	11,165.00	11,214.30
% Land Area of Town	**28.90%**	**29.10%**	**30.10%**	**30.30%**	**29.70%**	**30.20%**	**30.60%**	**30.70%**	**30.80%**

*Notes: *Removed due to no conservation/deed restrictions.*
Source: Town of South Kingstown

9.2 Needs Analysis

This section includes a review and summary of the condition of existing sites and facilities; the current maintenance program and future needs; available existing lands for active recreation; space or site type needs based upon minimum NRPA/Town standards; facility needs based upon minimum NRPA/Town standards; and other identified space or site needs with variable standards. In developing this section, the Town used, to the extent possible, accepted standards and quantitative data. Where such standards or data were incomplete or unavailable, the Town used the findings of the Planning Board, Recreation Commission, Recreation Department and Planning Department.

Addressing community need for recreation facilities and programs is a high priority for the Town and is administered through the Town's annual Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Town staff

continues to monitor the condition of facilities as they age and experience wear and tear in order to determine necessary maintenance and improvements. The CIP forecasts over a 6-year timeframe and the current budget has set aside approximately 6.5 million dollars over that timeframe towards leisure service facilities and programs. Town staff also continues to evaluate recreational program offerings on an annual basis in an attempt to address the evolving needs of the community. During fiscal year 2010-2011, over 1,500 classes and programs in sports, fitness, community education, and arts were offered for pre-school through senior citizens.

Existing Site and Facility Condition

The overall condition of the majority of public recreation sites and facilities can be characterized as 'Good' to 'Excellent', with several sites/facilities characterized as 'Fair' – although most of these sites/facilities are scheduled for planned upgrades as part of the "Pay as You Go" element of the Town's Capital Improvement Plan. Table 20 Facilities Inventory, Condition and Summary provide ratings of the condition of different categories of Town recreational facilities.

Maintenance

Responsibility for maintenance of recreation sites and facilities is shared between the Recreation and the Public Services Departments. Recreation performs the broadest scope of tasks related to the maintenance and upkeep of the Town's varied inventory of active and passive recreation facilities, including turf maintenance (fertilization, aeration, disease and pest control, irrigation, and mowing), facilities repair, trash/litter pick up and care of special plantings. The Recreation Department has primary responsibility for mowing at most recreational sites.

Space Needs (for active recreation)

To determine the existing level of need (2010 baseline), existing spaces (site types) must be matched against the population (2010 - 30,639) and adopted Town standards. Table 22 shows the current status of existing need by presenting the range of acres needed to serve 1,000 persons. All sites accessible on a Town-wide basis are included in Table 22 regardless of jurisdiction.

In order to determine future space and facility needs (2017), it is necessary to bring the baseline up to 2012 and consider the projected population five years out through the Buildout Analysis presented earlier in this element. Since an additional 113.4 units per year are projected, utilizing the 2.36 persons per household (PPH) over the five year period from 2012 – 2017, an additional 1,873 residents (2017 total population projected to be 32,512) can be expected. These needs are expressed in Table 22.

Facility Needs (for active recreation)

To establish facility needs for 2010 (Baseline) and 2017, it is necessary to apply Town standards to existing and potential inventory in light of current and anticipated population changes. These needs are expressed in Table 23.

Table 22 Existing (2010) and Future (2017) Active Recreation Acreage Needs

Component	Acres/1,000 Population	Existing Acreage	2010 Acreage Needs	2010 Additional Needs	2017 Acreage Needs	2017 Additional Needs
Mini Park	0.25 (low) 0.50 (high)	5.6	7.66 (low) 15.3 (high)	2.06	8.13 (low) 16.26 (high)	2.53
Playground	0.50 1.50	57.7	15.3 45.96	0	16.26 48.77	0
Neighborhood Park	1.00 2.00	46.16	30.64 61.28	0	32.51 65.02	0
Community Park	5.00 8.00	289.9	153.2 245.11	0	162.56 260.1	0

Notes: (Based on Town Standards and 2010 Population of 30,639 and projected 2017 population of 32,512).
Source: Town of South Kingstown Recreation Department

Table 23 Existing (2010) and Future (2017) Active Recreation Facility Needs

Facility	No. of Units per Population	No. of Existing Facilities	No. Needed 2010	2010 Additional Needs	No. Needed 2017	2017 Additional Needs
Basketball Courts	1 per 2,000	22	15	0	16	0
Tennis Courts	1 per 2,000	43	15	0	16	0
Baseball Fields	1 per 4,000	9	8	0	8	0
Soccer Fields	1 per 2,000	18	15	0	16	0
Softball Fields	1 per 3,000	6	10	4	11	5

Notes: (Based on Town Standards and 2010 Population of 30,639 and projected 2017 population of 32,512).
Source: Town of South Kingstown Recreation Department

Other Needs (with variable or no adopted Town Standards)

The Town has other recreation and open space needs that are more difficult to measure. The Town relied upon information provided by the Town Recreation Department, Recreation Commission, local citizenry and Healthy Places by Design process to identify these types of needs, including:

- Beach, Salt and Fresh Water Access: the Town continues to maintain and improve access to its beaches and salt and fresh water resources as necessary and to evaluate opportunities to increase access where appropriate.
- Aquifer and Recharge Area Protection: Aquifer and recharge area protection continues to be a top priority for the Town, continuing to enforce the Groundwater Protection Overlay District.
- Greenway System: The Town has made progress in designating several greenways throughout the Town as shown on Map 2.3 Land Use Plan Map, following the Saugatucket River, the Queens River, and the Chipuxet River corridor linking Hundred Acre Pond, Thirty Acre Pond, Great Swamp and Worden Pond. In South Kingstown a series of trails, bicycle paths and pedestrian rights of way could be integrated into certain greenway areas, particularly along the Saugatucket River. These greenway/open space

networks are illustrated on Map 2.3. In the Wakefield/Peace Dale area, a linear greenway could be implemented along the Saugatucket River and its Indian Run tributary. Such a greenway could be developed as a system of riverside foot or bike paths, perhaps combined with the Narragansett Pier Railroad Bikeway, to meander through the Town and link Town parks, schools and open spaces. In downtown Wakefield, the Town-owned parking lot on the Saugatucket River could be the focal point for a combined greenway and commercial revitalization effort. A feasibility study of the Greenway concept in general, and the Saugatucket River/Main Street area in particular, must first be conducted in order to advance this concept to the implementation stage.

- Indoor Recreation: Although State guidelines do not require an emphasis on indoor recreation needs, there remains a need for indoor facilities. The Town continues to make progress towards addressing this need. In February 2010 the Town purchased 13.44 acres of property known as the "Domenic Savio property" located on Broad Rock Road, adjacent to the Town's Senior Center and Broad Rock Playfields. This purchase provides the Town with the opportunity to site a Community Recreation Center to serve the needs of the school sports and municipal recreation programs. While a draft land use plan has been prepared that illustrates the potential layout of buildings, field space, and parking areas that can be sited on the property, costs associated with full utilization of this property have not been programmed into the Town's long term capital programming at this time.
- Handicapped Access: the Town continues to emphasize the importance of providing handicapped access to recreation and open space sites.

10. Infrastructure Inventory

An infrastructure inventory enables a community to assess the capacities of its public systems and to balance this against future demands. Thus, it allows a community to recognize, far in advance, the types of major public investments it will need to make in public infrastructure, or the restrictions it will have to impose on the timing and location of growth. When existing capacity thresholds of infrastructure are reached, new capacity must be created, for example, through the addition of new sewer lines. When a threshold is reached, capital improvements need to be planned and funded to create the needed capacity. Thus, the provisions of public infrastructure, services, and facilities are closely tied to the Town's Capital Improvement Program.

10.1 Wastewater Inventory

Approximately 10 percent of South Kingstown's land area, which includes approximately 40 percent of the number of dwellings in Town, are served by public sewers. The remaining 60 percent of residents utilize on-site wastewater treatment systems (OWTS) for sanitary waste disposal. (See Map 6.1 Sewer Service Areas).

Facilities - The Town is served by two sewer systems: 1) the Town-owned system (under the Public Services Department) which serves Wakefield, Peace Dale, Kingston, and Middlebridge; and, 2) the State University of Rhode Island (URI) system, which primarily serves University-owned properties. Areas served are all interconnected, with URI sewage flowing into the Town system at the Kingston pump station. Combined South Kingstown and URI sewage is pumped to the South Kingstown wastewater treatment plant in Narragansett, near the South Kingstown border via the Silver Lake pump station. It is a regional facility serving South Kingstown, URI and Narragansett. It is a

secondary treatment plant with an ocean outfall into Narragansett Bay. Capacity allotment and actual use of the treatment plant is shown in Table 24.

Table 24. Sewage Treatment Plant Capacity

	Original Capacity %	Original MGD	Current Capacity %	Original MGD	2009-10 Actual
South Kingstown	41%	1.6933	43%	2.1283	1.1377
URI	40%	1.6520	33%	1.6520	0.5632
Narragansett	19%	0.7847	24%	1.2197	1.3510
	100%	4.13	100%	5.00	3.05

Note: 0.87 MGD constructed in 1990
Source: Town of South Kingstown

Map 6.1 Sewer Service Areas indicates certain areas in the central part of Town as being within a Future Sewer Service Area. This area is the general area of the Town where public sewer service should be considered for any significant new development. Individual developments must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis in order to determine if it is feasible to extend pubic sewers. The Town's Wastewater Management Ordinance should be amended to provide connection policies for land within this area. Generally, it is the policy of the Town to encourage public sewer service to these areas in order to mitigate contamination to ground and surface waters which may result from the cumulative impacts of septic systems in high density areas.

Sewer extensions occur locally through Town Council and Planning Board approval as a Comprehensive Plan amendment, then through the state, as the wastewater authority. Areas where there is evidence of failing septic systems significant threat to environmentally sensitive areas may be provided with public sewers if such sewer extension will not result in a change in the land use pattern of the area.

10.2 Drinking Water Infrastructure Inventory

Approximately 80 percent of the Town's land area is served by private wells. The remaining 20 percent of the land area is served by one of the water systems listed below. These areas are business districts, fire district supplies, the University of Rhode Island, denser residential areas, and a few septic system problem areas (Table 25). It is noted that approximately 89 percent of Narragansett's water comes from sources in South Kingstown. This water serves virtually 100 percent of the residential population of Narragansett. Water systems in South Kingstown are:

Table 25. Water Systems Facts

	South Kingstown South Shore	United Water RI (UWRI)	Kingston	URI
Ownership	Public	Private	Public	State
Legal Jurisdiction	South Shore & Middlebridge	Entire town jurisdiction	Kingston	URI—owned properties
Personnel	2 manual 2 administrative	10	2	1 (partly water)
Number of wells in use	2 (1 at a time effectively)*	6 (+ reserve land)	2 (+ reserve land)	3
Total pumping design capacity****	1.6 mgd	7.5 mgd	1.4 mgd	4.4 mgd
Total actual use	0.5 mgd	2.7 mgd	0.4 mgd	0.5 mgd
Disinfection	Yes by UWRI	Yes	No	Yes
pH correction**	Yes by UWRI	Yes	Yes	Yes
Water quality problems?***	No*	No	No	No
Extension plans in near future?	Emergency Interconnect with UWRI completed in the fall of 2002	well explored in '92 new well in '93	Update undersized transmission line	No

* The South Kingstown South Shore system began purchasing water on an interim wholesale basis form UWRI beginning in the Fall of 2002 which is expected to continue until such time that a water filtration plant is constructed at the South Shore well field. Wholesale water purchase from UWRI for the Middlebridge system will continue unchanged.

** Base chemical is added to raise the pH in order to reduce pipe corrosion.

*** All water officials verified that their systems meet current EPA standards.

**** This is design capacity and does not consider safe yield (see Natural Resources Element, Section 2.4.2.).

Sources:

1) *Jon Schock, So. Kingstown Public Services Director, 1990*
2) *Stanley Knox, Vice President, Wakefield Water Co., 1990*
3) *Henry Meyer, Manager of Kingston Water District*
4) *Jerome Sidio, U.R.I. Director Facilities Services*
5) *R.I. Dept. of Health, Div. of Drinking Water, 1990*

10.3 Stormwater Management Inventory

The Town's storm drainage system is installed and managed by the Highway Division of the South Kingstown Public Works Department. Storm drainage systems are scattered all over South Kingstown, and the Town actively is expanding the system on an annual basis. Drainage systems tend to follow streets, and are discussed briefly in the Circulation Element. Certain areas along the Saugatucket and Narrow Rivers, and coastal areas are prone to-flooding.

The Town's Highway Division is responsible to inspect and maintain approximately 53 miles of stormwater drainage collection system, 2,650 catch basins, 345 stormwater manholes, and 337 outfalls. Drainage systems are typically localized and interconnected based upon topographical needs. Most systems are small, with four to eight catch basins and 2,000 - 3,000 feet of pipe. Most are enclosed piping systems, but natural drainage ways are used whenever possible. Discharges are to catchment basins, detention/retention ponds, streams and ponds, wooded swamps, overland flows and small ocean outfalls. There are no discharges into the sanitary sewer system. Beginning in 2011, all new drainage improvements will be predicated on RIDEM's Low Impact Development (LID) Stormwater Guidelines. Closed drainage systems with point discharges will be avoided whenever possible. An inventory of all stormwater structures within the Town of South Kingstown is provided below in Table 26. Stormwater Structures – South Kingstown, provided by the Town of South Kingstown's GIS, URI and RIDOT.

Table 26. Stormwater Structures – South Kingstown (as of February 2011)

	Ownership				
Type	**Town**	**State**	**URI**	**Private**	**Total**
Catchbasins	2,650	325	471	6	**3,452**
Stormwater Pipes (Mi.)	52.5	4.1	5.9	0.2	**62.7**
Inlets	134	22		5	**161**
Outlets	354	76		9	**439**
Detention Ponds	17			50	**67**
Manholes	345	150	748		1,245

Source: South Kingstown GIS Department

10.4 Solid Waste Management and Recycling

The Solid Waste and Recycling Division of the South Kingstown Public Services Department has been working to reduce municipal solid waste, increase recycling rates and promote overall waste steam reduction. In May 2008, the Town enacted general revisions to Chapter 15 of the Code, Solid Waste Management to align with State regulatory policy and planning requirements concerning solid waste management and recycling. Since that time South Kingstown has improved overall diversion rates to exceed the State's RIGL 23-19-13(e)(3) recycling goal of 35% and associated 50% diversion rate for solid waste. The most recent data available from RIRRC (RI Resource Recovery Corporation) indicates that for 2011 municipal waste management for South Kingstown shows that MRF (Materials Recycling Facility) recycling rates of approximately 42%, Mandatory Recycling Rate of over 50% and overall Materials Diverted from the Landfill at 63%.

The Town operates the Rose Hill Regional Transfer Station under contract with Waste Haulers, Inc. to provide solid waste and recycling management for the South Kingstown and neighboring Narragansett. For Fiscal 2010-2011 the Town sent 8,096 tons of municipal solid waste to the Central Landfill in Johnston. The total of residential recyclables sent to the Central Landfill was 3,709 tons. Total residential "tagged" waste from our "pay as you throw" program was 1,095 tons. In terms of recycling the Rose Hill Transfer Station recently converted to a "single stream" program whereby all recyclables are co-mingled into a single recycling container. It is felt this system will additionally bolster our community recycling rate percentage. In cooperation with the RI Resource Recovery Corporation the Town has also hosted annual "Hazardous Waste Collection Days". This program has been very effective in providing safe and convenient disposal of these materials for Town residents. One such event held in June of 2011 collected over 30,000 pounds (15 tons) of such materials.

Current population statistics show that there are over 10,000 households eligible for recycling activities throughout South Kingstown. At present approximately 3,500 households receive curbside solid waste and recycling services from licensed haulers. About two-thirds of these curbside subscribers utilize the Town's 64 gallon rolling toters. A specific long term goal is to provide all households in the Town of South Kingstown with a minimum of one 64 gallon rolling toter which will enable them to recycle more effectively.

11. Transportation Conditions

The analysis of transportation conditions within South Kingstown encompasses all modes of transportation: vehicular, public transit with bus and rail, bicycles and pedestrians as well as associated elements of parking. The Town's general objective for its transportation system is to provide safe and efficient access within and through the Town for all modes while maintaining the Town's rural qualities and scenic aesthetics.

11.1 Roadways

The Town of South Kingstown is served by a varied network of interstate, State (69.5 miles), Town (148.63 miles), and private (66.81 miles) roads. While, the Town of South Kingstown does not have an interstate road within its boundaries, US Route 1 does provide a link between Massachusetts and Connecticut. US Route 1 runs in a north-south directional travel along the sea coast of Rhode Island Sound at the tip of Narragansett Bay and continues along Block Island Sound providing access to the coastal pond areas of Town. Routes 108 and 110 serve north-south directional travel, while Route 138 (as well as portions of Route 2 between Charlestown and Exeter) serves east-west travel. Route 138 has a connection to Interstate 95 in Hopkinton, to the west, and continues across Narragansett Bay via the Jamestown and Newport Bridges to Newport in the east. Within Appendix D there is a summary of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) highway functional classification system , as well as Federal Aid Highway Program eligibility for roads in South Kingstown. RIDOT's highway functional classification is used in developing long-range transportation plans and in determining federal aid funding categories. The Federal-aid highway program is a federally assisted, State-administered partnership which makes funds available to RIDOT, and works with local officials to decide which projects get developed.

11.2 Commuting Patterns

Of the 14,246 workers living in South Kingstown from 2007 – 2009, 13,220 worked in Rhode Island (7.2 percent worked outside the state), 9,003 worked in Washington County, and 4,216 worked

outside of Washington County (American Community Survey 2007 - 2009).

The mean travel time to work was 22.9 minutes for 2007 – 2009. No substantive changes were observed in the mean travel time to work from 2000 (22.8) as well as in the percentage of people who drove alone to work, those who carpooled, and those who used public transportation. A marginal increase was observed in those working at home (an increase from 621 in 2000 to 712 from 2007 – 2009).

11.3 Public Transit

Public transportation within South Kingstown is provided by the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) with routes along the major roadways of Routes 1, 108 and 138. These routes primarily serve local travel Monday through Saturday. RIPTA maintains two bus routes with service to South Kingstown; Route 64 Kingston Railroad Station – URI – Jamestown – Newport Gateway Center, and Route 66 Galilee – Narragansett – Wakefield – URI – Kingston Railroad Station – Providence. RIPTA also provides Flexible Service (Flex Service) – a program designed to help serve the unmet mobility needs of communities across Rhode Island, within the area of URI. Flex Service offers paasengers the option of calling a ride or picking up the Flex Vehicle within a geographically-limited zone known as a Flex Zone (a suburban or rural area that has little or no fixed-route service) and connecting to a fixed-route bus service for travel outside the zone. The Kingston Flex Service '210' provides service for the URI graduate village and campuswide by reservation, while the Kingston Connection Flex Service '211' provides weekday service campuswide and connections to the Bay Campus, Down the Line, Kingston Railroad Station, Newport, Providence, Warwick and Westerly. The University Pass Program (UPASS) established between URI and RIPTA provides free access for students (with valid ID) and faculty/staff (with valid Kingston Connection key tag) to flex services. The total number of RIPTA ridership throughout Rhode Island has grown from 14.9 million passengers in 1989 to 25 million as of 2007. The strength of RIPTA's growing ridership and successful partnerships with URI brings the potential of additional RIPTA expansion/facilities to the URI campus (Transit hub/fueling station),

The South Kingstown Senior Transportation Service also is available to South Kingstown residents 60 years of age or older, free of charge, for non-medical purposes. This municipal service is also available to disabled South Kingstown residents, regardless of age, for participation in the federally assisted lunch program provided at the Center. Friends in Service to Humanity (FISH) provide transportation on an arranged basis to all residents of South Kingstown and Narragansett regardless of age and free of charge when other means of transportation are unavailable.

AMTRAK, a federally subsidized rail system, provides Northeast Corridor (Boston to Washington, DC) service. Fifty miles of the Northeast Corridor is located in Rhode Island, with approximately four and one-half miles in South Kingstown. AMTRAK now serves only three stations in Rhode Island; Providence, Kingston and Westerly. Travel from Kingston Station to Providence via AMTRAK is only 27 miles and takes approximately 40 minutes; however, the schedules do not make this a commuter train as many of the trains travel southbound. Impending improvements to the Kingston Station to improve commuter service are scheduled for 2018. This improvement is intended to reawaken commuter rail service in the South Kingstown area and could result in a significant shift in multi-modal transportation opportunities in the Town.

11.4 Pedestrian/Bicycle Paths

Until recent years, there had been no meaningful effort to expand the existing sidewalk network in the Town since the W.P.A. Programs in the early 1930's. There is a serious need now to extend walks to provide off-road all-season egress to schools, commercial and recreational areas. While crosswalks are provided at the intersection of major roads, the Town has identified the need to further emphasize the rights of the pedestrian. For example, major improvements to 18 crosswalks in Wakefield and Peace Dale were completed in 2009.

Bicycles are excellent sport and recreation vehicles but also offer a serious mode of transportation for many. Bicycling is also an ideal way to appreciate the New England landscape. Currently, three phases of this bike path system have been completed connecting the West Kingston/URI area to neighboring Narragansett. Phase 3 of the bike path comprising .43 miles in South Kingstown was opened for use in the summer of 2011. A future phase of the path will extend to and connect with the Narragansett Pier area. This path will serve as an important link in the multi-modal system when complete as it will connect the Kingston/URI area to Narragansett Pier.

IV. SURVEY SUMMARY

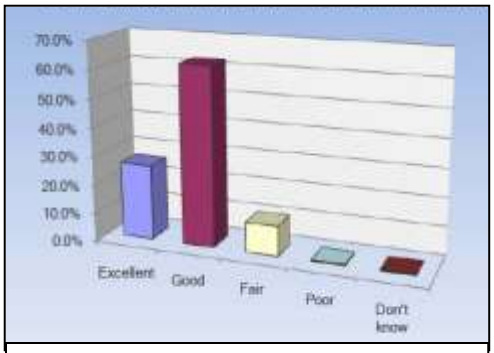
1. Survey Background

In February 2010, the Town of South Kingstown Planning Department conducted a 37-question survey in order to gauge the community's attitude on important issues and to identify any emerging trends compared to previous surveys. The survey was provided in both on-line and hardcopy format. Notice of the survey was provided to residents and business owners throughout town via email and the project website (http://www.horsleywitten.com/skingstown). Additionally, four "survey stations" were set up at different locations throughout Town along with drop-boxes to distribute and collect hardcopy surveys. A total of 522 surveys were returned and analyzed. A copy of the survey and survey results are presented in Appendix A.

The 2010 survey was designed with several questions that replicated the community surveys conducted in 2003 and 1990 in order to identify any trends within the past two decades. Two open-ended questions elicited a significant response. One of the benefits of an open-ended question is to generate unprompted responses. In response to the question *"Please use the space below to discuss what your greatest concerns are for the future of South Kingstown,"* 47 percent responded. The second open-ended question was to elaborate on the response to the question *"Looking ahead ten years to 2013, do you think that South Kingstown will be a better place to live than it is today, a worse place to live, or about the same?"* This open-ended question received a 35 percent response rate.

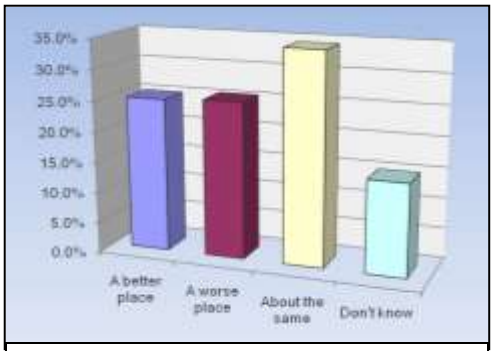
2. Quality of Life

The 2010 survey confirms that the majority of respondents remain satisfied with the present quality of life in Town. Over 60 percent felt that the quality of life is good while an additional 25 percent felt it is excellent. This represents a slight increase from the results of the previous South Kingstown Community survey conducted in 2003 in which approximately 20 percent felt the quality of life is excellent. *(See Question 1)*



Question 1: Overall, how do you feel about the present quality of life in South Kingstown?

The community's perspective on the future of South Kingstown is improving. While there is currently an even divide between respondents who feel South Kingstown will be a "better place" or "worse place" to live in 20 years, this represents an improvement over the responses from the same question in the 2003 survey. In 2003, more respondents answered "worse place" (39 percent) as compared to "better place" (15 percent). *(See Question 28)*



Question 28: Looking ahead ten years to the year 2020, do you think that South Kingstown will be a better place to live than it is today, a worse place to live, or about the same?

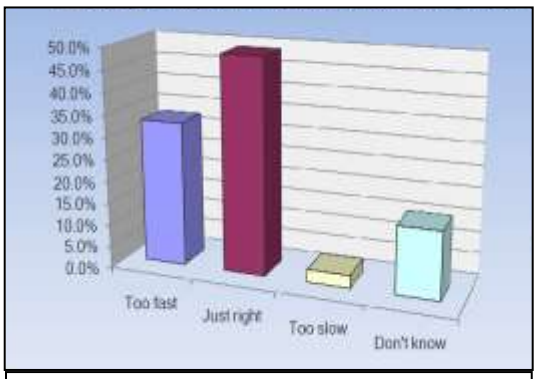
Based on the responses from 1990, 2003 and 2010, several positive improvements in South Kingstown were noted for the previous two decades. Of major concern in 1990, as demonstrated in the responses to open-ended questions, were issues related to environmental preservation, pollution, and water quality. In 2003 and 2010, these issues were rarely mentioned as concerns. Preservation of coastal resources and

the shoreline, and protection of drinking water therefore now all earn high marks.

- Respondents felt that the Town has succeeded in preserving coastal resources, with 11 percent more people responding strongly agree than in 2003 and 20 percent than in 1990. *(See Question 6)*

- Respondents supported the Town's efforts to protect drinking water quality. The percentage of respondents who strongly agreed that the Town has protected these resources has increased from 38 percent in 2003 to 45 percent in 2010. The number of respondents who strongly agreed in 1990 was only 20 percent. *(See Question 13)*

3. Residential Growth and Development



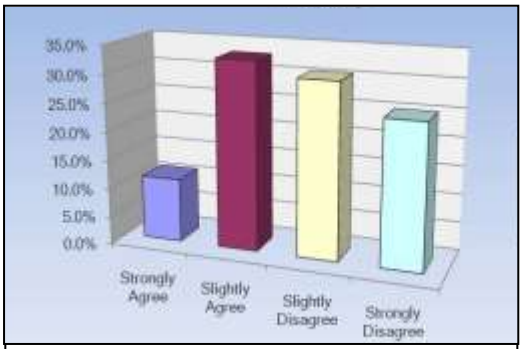
Question 23: The population of the Town has grown 9.0% (2,516 persons) between 2000 and 2009 (estimated). How would you characterize this change in population?

Residential growth and traffic congestion continued to lead the concerns of the community over the past two decades, although it appears that opinions regarding these issues may be leveling off due to a decrease in growth over the past ten years (11.8% population increase from 1990-2000 compared to 9% increase from 2000-2009 [estimated]). More people felt that the rate of growth was "just right" in 2010 (49 percent) than in 2003 (21 percent) and in 1990 (16 percent). Although more respondents in 2010 felt that the rate of growth was "too fast" (33 percent) as compared with "too slow" (3 percent), there was a decrease in the number of people who felt growth was "too fast" in 2010 (33 percent) as compared to 2003 (69 percent). *(See Question 23)*

A new question asked in the 2010 survey also revealed an important point relative to growth management and development. Although the community's opinion regarding growth appears to have shifted over the past two decades, the large majority of respondents (90 percent) feel that the Town should continue its efforts to manage to rate of residential growth in the community. *(See Question 5)* Additionally, the majority of respondents to the 2010 survey do not feel that the Town's current transportation infrastructure is adequate to handle the Town's current and future needs. *(See Question 7)* A total of 54 percent disagreed (either slightly or strongly) while a total 46 percent agreed (either slightly or strongly).

4. Affordable Housing

There was a clear mandate for additional low-income housing (subsidized) and small-scale, affordable market-rate housing (not subsidized). *(See Questions 3 and 4.)* Over 70 percent of respondents agreed (either slightly or strongly) that the Town should make it a priority to move toward the State mandate of 10% affordable housing stock (subsidized). The community was more evenly divided regarding small-scale, market-rate housing (not subsidized),

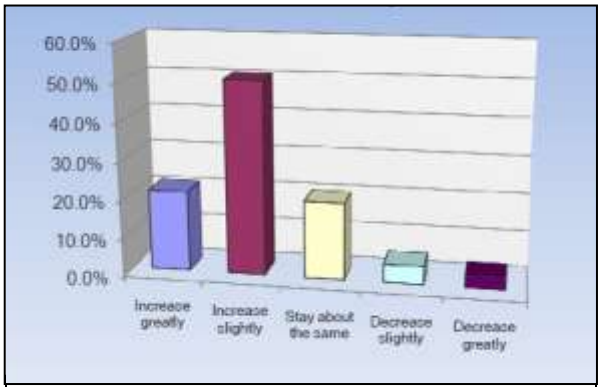


Question 4: There is an adequate amount of small-scale, affordable housing in Town (not subsidized).

however the majority of respondents (56 percent) either slightly or strongly agreed that there was not an adequate amount.

5. Commercial Development

A new question asked in the 2010 survey indicated that respondents believe it is possible to encourage shopping opportunities while maintaining a "small town" atmosphere. *(See Question 16)* This question was a modified version of a previous question asked in the 1990 and 2003 surveys that stated "It is more important to me for the town to have more shopping opportunities than it is to keep its present 'small town atmosphere.'" The modified version of this question in the 2010 survey addressed this topic differently by stating "It is possible for the Town to increase shopping opportunities while maintaining a 'small town atmosphere.'" Responses to the 2010 survey question indicate that the large majority of respondents (77 percent) either strongly or slightly agrees with the idea that shopping does not necessarily have to detract from a small town atmosphere.

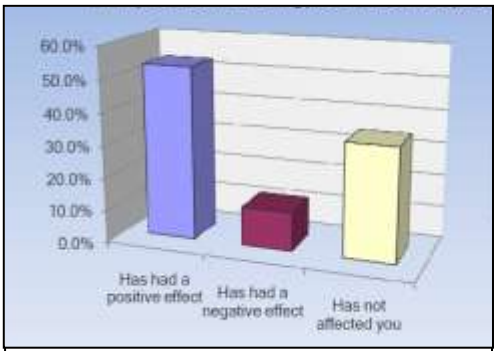


Question 24: Promotion of economic development (new stores, office buildings, restaurants and manufacturers) may diversify the Town's tax base and lessen the burden on residential properties to fund municipal services. Compared to the present commercial growth rate, would you like the commercial growth rate to: [INSERT CHOICE]

When informed that commercial growth may lessen the burden on residential properties to fund municipal services, 51 percent of those who responded indicated that the commercial growth rate should increase slightly (an increase from 45 percent in 2003 and 29 percent in 1990). Over 13 percent felt strongly that commercial development should increase (compared with 13 percent in 2003 and 6 percent in 1990). (*Note*: 1990 percentages totaled 108.9%. When adjusted to reflect total 100% response, previously reported percent distributions were reduced). *(See Question 24)* A strong mandate was demonstrated to encourage tourism as a boost to the local economy. Nearly 89 percent felt that this would benefit the community (55 percent strongly agreed and 34 percent slightly agreed). This was an increase from 2003 when 75 percent agreed and in 1990 when 59 percent agreed.

6. University of Rhode Island

The community continues to support the construction and expansion activities at URI as the majority of respondents (53 percent) felt that URI expansion was positive. This is an increase from the 2003 survey in which 45 percent reported it had a positive effect. *(See Question 27)* A new question was added to the 2010 survey to reflect an issue of current interest with the potential development of a research and development park adjacent to campus. The overwhelming majority of respondents are in favor of this development with 52 percent finding it strongly favorable and 31 percent moderately favorable. *(See Question 20)*



Question 27: What is your opinion concerning enrollment growth and the new construction and expansion activities taking place at the University of Rhode Island?

7. Overview of the Sample

The largest portion of the sample continued to be from Wakefield (38 percent) followed by Peace Dale (12 percent) and Kingston (10 percent). In 2003, the percentage from these three villages was 4 percent lower than in 2010. In both 1990 and 2003 surveys, 55 percent of the respondents indicated that they had lived in South Kingstown 15 or more years with 34 percent living in town 26 or more years. In 2010, the number of respondents living in South Kingstown went up as nearly 65 percent of the respondents indicated that they had lived in South Kingstown 15 or more years with 41 percent living in town 26 or more years. A higher proportion of respondents had children in South Kingstown public schools in 2010 than in 2003 and 1990 (increasing slightly each survey with 27 percent in 1990, 29 percent in 2003, and to 31 percent in 2010). Respondents to the 2010 survey were generally older than those who responded to the previous surveys. In 1990 48 percent of respondents were above the age of 50, in 2003 54 percent were above the age of 50, and in 2010 61 percent were above the age of 50. (*See Questions 30, 32, and 33)*

Fewer homeowners responded to the 2010 survey than to the 2003 survey (89 percent in 2010 compared to 92 percent in 2003). More were employed, fewer were homemakers, and fewer were retired. More respondents worked within the town with an increase from 45 percent in 2003 to 56 percent in 2010. *(See Questions 36 and 36)*

8. Survey Conclusion

Although the Town of South Kingstown continues to feel the pressures of residential development and increased traffic, when compared to the 1990 and 2003 surveys, many positive strides have been made. The rate of growth remains a concern but not to the degree exhibited in the earlier surveys. Protection of coastal resources and drinking water quality were two impressive strides.

Challenges for the next decade include preserving open space, encouraging the development of affordable housing to serve the needs of our low-income residents, maintaining the diversity of the existing housing stock to provide affordable, non-subsidized housing options, and working to ensure that those who have lived in town can continue to reside in the community during their retirement years. Development of tourism opportunities and the potential to expand commercial and light industrial development, in keeping with the quality of life in South Kingstown, will also be challenges in the decade to come.

V. STATE GUIDE PLAN CONSISTENCY

The South Kingstown 2014 Comprehensive Community Plan Update has been prepared to be directly in accordance with the State Guide Plan Overview June 2001 Update (revisions through May 2010). The following elements relevant to the Town of South Kingstown were reviewed for consistency:

Element 121: State Land Use Policies and Plan
Element 140: State Historical Preservation Plan
Element 152: Ocean State Outdoors: Rhode Island's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
Element 155: A Greener Path…Greenspace and Greenways for Rhode Island's Future
Element 156: Urban and Community Forest Plan
Element 162: Rivers Policy and Classification Plan
Element 171: Rhode Island Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan
Element 211: Economic Development Policies and Plan
Element 212: Industrial Land Use Plan
Element 421: State Housing Plan
Element 611: Transportation 2020: Ground Transportation Plan 2001 Update
Element 721: Water Supply Policies for Rhode Island
Element 722: Water Supply Plan for Rhode Island
Element 723: Water Emergency Response Plan
Element 724: Rhode Island Drought Management Plan
Element 731: Non-point Source Pollution Management Plan

Land Use

Land Use Element

Introduction

Main Street in the Village of Wakefield

The village-centered pattern of development in South Kingstown, particularly in Wakefield, Peace Dale, and Kingston, has defined the historic pattern of development in the community (see Map 2.1 Villages). The Town has committed to preserving and reinforcing this pattern of development through its future sewer service area map, (see Map 6.1 Sewer Service Areas) through the development of village specific plans, and through the designation of special management districts. Residential development within these villages is within walking distance of small shops and services and bike paths connect open space and community facilities. Commercial infill within villages is encouraged to both protect outlying rural areas from development and to provide the range of goods and services required within walking or biking distance of village residents. The importance of providing an appropriate density of residential development within villages is critical to providing affordable housing for low and moderate incomes, including modest starter homes on small lots, cottage communities, two-family housing/duplexes, and multifamily apartments.

South Kingstown continues to be one of the most desirable South County communities in which to live and work. Community reputation for competitively priced new residential construction, good schools, and employment opportunities, combined with access to beaches and recreation, continue to reinforce the attractiveness of South Kingstown for people moving from more urban parts of the State or relocating from out of state (see Map 2.2 Existing Land Use).

The community recognizes that the 1992 Community Comprehensive Plan and the 2005 Comprehensive Plan Update were well conceived with solid goals and policies. Positive strides have been made in implementing the growth management mandates outlined in those plans including Development Pacing and Phasing, flexible design standards, inclusionary zoning provisions, and the development of a Village Plan for Wakefield and Peace Dale. These tools enable the Town to assure that population growth is sustainable for the school system, that development is directed to village areas, that a diversity of housing is provided, and that regulatory bodies are empowered to mandate designs that reflect the context and values of the community. An aggressive open space acquisition program has not only limited the consumption of valuable natural lands but is also helping to reinforce the rural, low-density development setting within the Town. Future municipal property acquisition should also reflect the long-term needs of the community to provide sites for town services and recreation facilities, open space preservation and, potentially, affordable housing.

Providing for regulatory clarity and revising standards to encourage high quality development will continue to be critical to the implementation of this Plan. Zoning and land development regulations must be carefully written to avoid ambiguity or development which does not reinforce the character that has come to define the Town. These regulations must be fairly and judiciously applied to all matters

presented before Town Council, the Planning Board, the Zoning Board of Review, the Planning Department and the Zoning and Building Inspection Office. The Town must coordinate closely with the Coastal Resources Management Council and the RI Department of Environmental Management to assure that assents and permits are consistent with the Comprehensive Community Plan and local zoning requirements. The build-out model is an important planning tool that shall be used to monitor the Town's projected population growth to ensure that this is appropriately reflected in growth management programs, appropriate zoning densities, infrastructure improvements, and open space protection objectives. Sustainable growth management, tied to well-planned infrastructure expansions and constraints, will continue to be an important tool to guide development in the community for the coming decade.

The Land Use Plan Map series within this plan (Maps 2.3-2.6) provide a depiction of the desired, future general distribution of land uses in the Town consistent with the goals and policies of this plan. These maps form the policy foundation of the Town's Zoning ordinance. For this plan update no major changes to the noted Land Use Plan Maps are anticipated. It is felt generally that the existing map series is well conceived and reflective of the policy directions and general goals of the Comprehensive Plan. A number of housekeeping amendments to the maps have been made to address certain inconsistencies of existing land use policy and zoning. Specifically, the plan maps are revised as follows:

1. Revise the Open Space designation to reflect the current state of permanently protected open space on a contemporary basis and to provide policy support for existing land within the Open Space zoning category.
2. Amendments on Rose Hill Road (area directly north of the former landfill site, "Pearl's Way" vicinity) to reconcile the current "Government and Institutional" (GI) designation with publicly owned lot boundaries in that the current GI boundary includes private land.
3. Revise the designation of a single parcel on Succotash Road to Commercial Shore to support the existing zoning of said parcel, Commercial Waterfront (CW).
4. Revise the designation of a single parcel in Kingston located easterly of the Alumni Center from the current Neighborhood Commercial to Government and Institutional. The parcel is owned by the University and utilized for parking.
5. Revise the designation of another Kingston parcel located on the west side of Old North Road from Government Institutional to Medium High Density Residential. This is the site of the "Old North Village" comprehensive permit application by South County Habitat for Humanity to establish four affordable units on this former URI owned property. Revise the designation of a 9 acre parcel of land situated on the west side of Old North Road from Medium Density Residential to GI. This land was acquired by the University in 2011 via a trade with South County Habitat for Humanity for the property noted herein.
6. Revise the designation of the former Tibbets property north of Flagg Road to Government/Institutional (GI) from the current Medium Density Residential (1.09-1.99 du/ac), this parcel was acquired by the University in 2006. Also expand the GI designation to encompass the current parcel configuration of the former University landfill property which has been closed and remediated. A portion of this land is currently shown on the land use plan map as Medium Density Residential.
7. Revise the overall Land Use Plan Map, Wakefield Detail (Map 2.4) to change the designation of central Peace Dale from the existing designation of Neighborhood Commercial to Downtown Commercial. This area was rezoned to Commercial Downtown as part of Phase 2 zoning in 1999 and the Comprehensive Plan Maps were not amended at that time or since. This action would serve to restore the proper correlation between zoning and comprehensive plan designation for this vicinity. It would apply only to those lots already zoned for CD usage, it would not require

any rezoning after the plan update is adopted. This is essentially a housekeeping item that surfaced late in the process of the update and remedies an issue that should have been addressed during the Phase 2 zoning process.

The Town of South Kingstown recognizes that changes in climate and weather patterns are noticeably reshaping our coastline and adding stress to inland areas through increased demands on existing infrastructure (e.g. potential to relocate uses and facilities). These changes will require us to rethink the manner in which we plan for future improvements and the standards we will apply to applications for new development. Shifts in our coastline will impact the way property owners and the public can access these sensitive areas and the Town will need to work with the State CRMC to develop effective and equitable policies for future management. A long term approach to natural hazards planning is required that accounts for increased impacts while ensuring our ability to protect property rights, continue economic development, and ensure the safety of our residents and business owners (see Map 2.7 Natural Hazards).

Coastline near the Village of Matunuck

The Town of South Kingstown has a dynamic and diverse population committed to active participation in local events. Local advocacy groups and volunteers are recognized as community strengths and valuable components of the fabric of the community, fostering open debate for creative and comprehensive solutions to local issues. Improved communication between town administration and advocacy groups will provide common knowledge on regulatory issues and also foster understanding of local concerns. This communication and understanding will result in a municipal policy environment and budget process that reflects the diverse values and interests of South Kingstown.

Land Use Achievements

The Town of South Kingstown has continued to meet the goal established in the 1992 Comprehensive Plan:

To promote orderly growth patterns based upon the natural, cultural and historic character of the Town, the land's suitability for use, and the aspirations of its citizens.

Major land use accomplishments include the following:

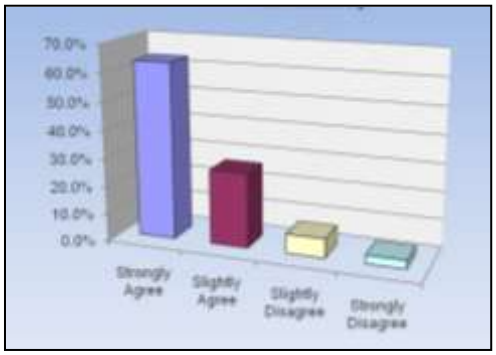
- The Development Pacing and Phasing Program provides a regulatory tool that regulates the annual number of residential building permits issued during periods of rapid growth so as to not exceed the capacity of the school system. During periods of moderate growth the ordinance does not restrict the issuance of building permits. The Town has not been in a "period of rapid growth" since July of 2001.
- Revision of the Annual Action Agenda for Growth Management in 2007 to focus the program on a biennial basis and rename the effort the "Growth Management Program". Through the revised program the Town has continued to track progress toward growth management and sustainable development.

- The Fair Share Development Fees are established each year through the Capital Improvement Program in accordance with the Subdivision Regulations and the Zoning Ordinance for educational facilities and for open space, conservation, park and recreational land.
- Establishment of the Public Marina Special Management District (PMSMD) for town owned property at Marina Park (7.52 acres at the north end of Point Judith Pond) in June of 2008. Amendments to facilitate the district were made to the Comprehensive Community Plan and Zoning Ordinance. This district provides an improved regulatory framework to govern the use of these properties, support the historic land use pattern present and allow for changes and appropriate levels of expansion to occur in a manner that is consistent with the recreational, functional and aesthetic values of this public open space facility.
- Continuance of an active Open Space Acquisition Program (see Open Space and Recreation Element)
- Preparation of "South Kingstown Village Study: Villages of Wakefield and Peace Dale" and initiation of implementation of this report.
- Adopted tools to promote affordable housing, including: inclusionary zoning ordinance, fee in lieu of affordable unit ordinance and established a local "Housing Fund" in accordance with the recommendation of the Town's Affordable Housing Plan.
- Acceptance of "South Kingstown: Designing a Healthier Community" and initiation of implementing report recommendations.

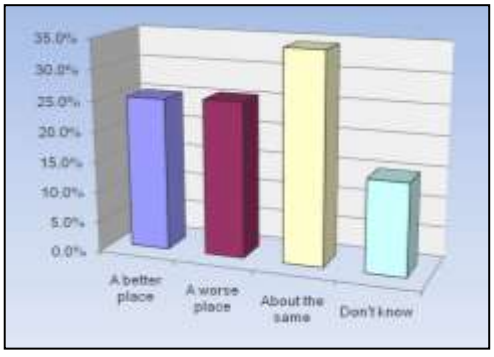
Survey Findings

The South Kingstown Community Survey conducted in 2010 included the following findings regarding Land Use:

- The majority of respondents remain satisfied with the present quality of life in town. Over 60 percent felt that the quality of life is good while an additional 25 percent felt it is excellent. This represents a slight increase from the results of the previous South Kingstown Community survey conducted in 2003 in which approximately 20 percent felt the quality of life is excellent.
- Managing the rate of residential growth continues to be an important objective to the community as over 60 percent of respondents strongly agreed that this should continue to be a focus and an additional 25 percent slightly agreed. The Town continues to address this issue by promoting a sustainable manner of development through its multi-faceted Growth Management Program.
- Citizens have diverse perspectives as to whether the Town's development regulations (zoning, subdivision, etc.) are too restrictive or too lenient. More respondents currently feel that the Town's development regulations are "too lenient" (23 percent) as compared to "too restrictive" (13



The Town should continue its efforts to manage the rate of residential growth in the community.



Looking ahead ten years to the year 2020, do you think that South Kingstown will be a better place to live than it is today, a worse place to live, or about the

percent), however the largest group of respondents feel the regulations are "just about right" (35 percent).

- The large majority of respondents feel that agricultural activities, such as active farming, agricultural tourism, and farmers markets should be promoted. Over 70 percent strongly agree with this concept and 20 percent slightly agree.
- The community's perspective on the future of South Kingstown is improving. While there is currently an even divide between respondent who feel South Kingstown will be a "better place" or "worse place" to live in 20 years, this represents an improvement over the responses from the same question in the 2003 survey. In 2003, more respondents answered "worse place" (39 percent) as compared to "better place" (15 percent).

Visioning Process

The visioning process for the Comprehensive Plan Update occurred through a series of information gathering techniques including:

- Two public workshops focused on comprehensive planning issues held on April 6, 2010 and May 24, 2011;
- Informational interviews with key community members and board members;
- Multiple public outreach and engagement events occurring throughout the concurrent Healthy Places by Design grant process;
- The use of Planning Board work sessions to discuss and refine Comprehensive Plan concepts; and
- The use of a project website to provide updates and draft materials to the community.

The following section summarizes the concepts and ideas that emerged from the visioning process regarding land use. These ideas were organized into the following basic groupings: Protecting and Enhancing South Kingstown's Identity, Villages as a Model for Growth, Regulatory Improvements, and Planning Processes and Communication.

<u>Protecting and Enhancing South Kingstown's Identity</u>

- Maintain a focus throughout all planning processes, and specifically through the Comprehensive Plan, on protecting and maintaining the rural, small town setting within South Kingstown.
- Give a stronger voice to historic and cultural resources within the Comprehensive Plan as this is vital to the implementation of protective measures for these resources moving forward.
- Continue to discourage monotonous, sprawling types of development in favor of development that is consistent with the character of the Town and development within the existing village areas.
- Make preservation of working farms and agricultural activities a higher priority within town planning documents and continue to find ways to support the local agricultural economy through both regulatory and non-regulatory tools.
- Provide a thorough and balanced planning approach to account for the diversity of resources that contribute to the Town's character including rural vistas, beaches, salt ponds, pristine natural resources, farmlands, bike paths, historic buildings, and historic village centers.

Villages as a Model for Growth

- Strengthen and refine the "Village Model" approach to growth within all planning documents, and specifically within the Comprehensive Plan Update.
- Account for the unique identities and attributes of each village. No two villages are alike, thus each village should have different planning objectives.
- Identify where the Historic District Commission may be able to strengthen and/or expand its role relative to reviewing new development or redevelopment projects beyond the Historic Zoning District.
- Use the focus on village viability to guide infrastructure expansions and investments.
- Continue to support the growth of an arts identity within the Villages of Wakefield and Peace Dale.
- Encourage the establishment of "pocket parks" and small green spaces within the village centers, where appropriate, as means to provide additional amenities within the villages and balance the use of space within these more densely built environments.
- Focus improvements to public transit facilities and services within the villages to support a walkable, multi-modal approach to transportation and to further connect the villages to each other.
- Offer a diverse array of housing options, where appropriate, including small scale "cottage" housing, multi-family housing, and affordable housing.
- Review and consider revisions to the regulatory and planning framework surrounding the Village of West Kingston with regard to the area's sensitive natural resources, historic resources, agricultural lands, and impending improvements for commuter rail service.
- Encourage mixed-use and commercial projects to include inviting, walkable environments with sidewalk amenities such as landscaping, street trees, benches, awnings, lighting, etc.
- Promote small-scale commercial spaces to support "mom and pop" businesses and embrace our village atmosphere.
- Encourage infill, mixed-use development for Wakefield and Peace Dale, where appropriate and at appropriate levels.
- Encourage projects that promote a "park once" strategy and provide the ability to walk to multiple destinations for shopping or services.
- Explore the potential for expanding public transportation services throughout South Kingstown with a focus on connecting the village areas. The Town will assess the feasibility of new routes for trolley services based on desired destinations identified through the Healthy Places by Design outreach process.

Regulatory Improvements

- Establish more comprehensive standards for the Commercial Highway, Commercial Downtown, and Commercial Neighborhood Districts with requirements that address architecture, signage, and appropriate landscaping.
- Revise/update the South Kingstown Residential Design Manual and the regulations for Flexible Design Residential Project, and landscaping regulations.
- Promote innovative standards for high quality design such as low impact development/conservation design. The use of these standards and theories must become the norm rather than an option.
- Explore the development of a Commercial Development Design Manual.

- Focus on providing a more comprehensive review of applicable development projects relative to protecting and enhancing historic and cultural resources. Must be able to identify policies and standards that can be used in the development review process.
- Continue to revise and develop regulations that are clear and easy to understand, apply and interpret by local boards and applicants.
- Account for the cumulative impacts of development through a more defined regulatory mechanism.
- Promote and incentivize the integration of "green building" design practices within the development review process.
- Engage state officials in an active dialog regarding the recent trend of using the Comprehensive Permit Process as a means to circumvent/waive town regulations and design standards that contribute to quality design. This dialog should help increase awareness regarding this issue and improve state and local plans, ordinances, and regulations relative to the design and development of quality affordable housing.
- Promote the use of the inclusionary zoning model as the regulatory process of preference of for-profit developers. This model is seen as providing affordable housing opportunities for the community while maintaining appropriate densities and quality of the finished development.
- Explore regulations regarding Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) within the Town or as part of an inter-municipal program.
- Develop and adopt form-based codes or design standards in appropriate areas to support pedestrian-oriented building design and the integration of a mix of uses.
- Consider Subdivision and Land development Regulations amendments to strengthen the application of building design standards in village areas that support pedestrian, bicycle and transit activity.
- Require the installation of pedestrian amenities along existing building frontage in village areas, such as attractive landscaping, building design, street furniture and other options as deemed necessary by the Planning Board.

Planning Processes and Communication

- Long range planning is a concept that must become ingrained in the local culture.
- Improved communication with community is necessary regarding the planning function as a whole. This can be achieved through various forms of media such as: development of a departmental brochure/newsletter, expanded use of the town website as well as direct communication with town organizations and community groups.
- Provide Town Boards with the training necessary to expand their capacities and overall role in development review.
- Provide training and support to local community organizations regarding the identification of funding sources and grant writing.
- Improve communication and raise public awareness concerning affordable and "workforce" housing in South Kingstown.
- Raise awareness and provide educational resources relative to environmental, historic and cultural resources within South Kingstown.
- Ensure that the University of Rhode Island is an active planning partner with the Town for all related development and university expansions.
- View planning for villages as a critical piece to supporting South Kingstown's community character, economic welfare, and overall health – both for its citizens and the environment.

Land Use Vision

The land use element will protect and enhance the unique quality of life of this civic-minded community whose residents reside within densely developed or rural villages and outlying areas. This quality of life will continue to be supported by and dependent upon the health of the Town's abundant natural resources: beaches, salt ponds, and estuaries along the coast, freshwater wetlands, rivers, streams and ponds which provide habitat for threatened and endangered species, and rivers which connect upland to the ocean. The Town's Native American and historic legacy will continue to enrich this quality of life, providing a prehistoric context of locations important to the Narragansett Indian cycle of life, and historic context of stone walls, historic homes and factories, and cemeteries. The Town's historic village-centered development pattern will continue to provide a model for future growth. The Town will continue to recognize the University of Rhode Island as an asset and partner to the community for programs, economic development and employment opportunities, among others. South Kingstown will continue to be a community where people know their neighbors and treasure the close-knit, small town ambiance and expansive (protected) open spaces. The rights of individual property owners will be carefully balanced with the rights of the community to maintain this quality of life.

Land Use Action Plan

To promote orderly growth patterns based upon the natural, cultural and historic character of the Town, the land's suitability for use, and the aspirations of its citizens.

Goal 1: To establish land use policies consistent with "Land Use 2025: Rhode Island's Land Use Policies and Plan", and to maintain continuity with the 1992 South Kingstown Comprehensive Plan and previous Plan updates.

Policy 1.1 - The Town endorses the use of the Comprehensive Plan and its implementation as a means to preserve its diverse landscape and rural, small-town character, to balance the diverse needs of its citizens and businesses, and to implement its land use policies.

Implementation

- The Town shall amend the Comprehensive Plan in accordance with state level requirements or in accordance with the needs of the community.
- The Town shall establish procedures to ensure that the goals of each element of this Plan are implemented and that any modification to goals or policies is evaluated for its conformity with the balance of the Plan.

Policy 1.2 - The Town recognizes that improved communication between the Town Planning Department and the citizens of this community regarding the Comprehensive Plan and other planning documents and processes will result in a better understanding of planning issues within the Town.

Implementation

- The Planning Department and Planning Board shall, as part of their biennial Growth Management Program, evaluate and implement appropriate measures to foster better communication and information on planning issues and the general land use planning

function within the community. Such measures may include: a departmental brochure, outreach efforts to community groups, and improved use of the town website as a means to educate and inform interested parties.

Policy 1.3 - The Town recognizes that the Zoning Ordinance, Zoning Map, and Subdivision and Land Development Regulations must conform with the provisions and intent of this Plan.

Implementation

- The Town shall continue to require that any formal amendment to this Plan include a public hearing to reflect any proposed change to the Zoning Ordinance, Zoning Map, or Subdivision and Land Development Regulations, where necessary.

Policy 1.4 - The Town recognizes that regulations governing the development review process shall be clear and utilize unambiguous language.

Implementation

- The South Kingstown Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision and Land Development Regulations, and the Residential Design Manual Standards shall be reviewed and revised to improve implementation and to avoid ambiguity.

Policy 1.5 - The Town recognizes the importance of regional planning with adjacent communities and with other Washington County communities.

Implementation

- The Town supports the Washington County Regional Planning Council process and will continue to participate in this endeavor.

Policy 1.6 - The University of Rhode Island (URI) is recognized as a planning and community partner with the Town of South Kingstown.

Implementation

- The Director of Planning shall continue to coordinate with URI regarding projects of mutual concern or impact.
- The Town shall pursue all implementation items related to URI listed within the Economic Development, Services and Facilities, Circulation, and URI elements of the Comprehensive Plan.
- The Town shall consider an agreement with URI to work cooperatively to support a locally-based food system in South Kingstown through coordinating available resources and expertise.

Goal 2: To maintain a sustainable rate of development which is consistent with the ability of the Town to provide essential services, to achieve a stable tax rate, to protect environmental, historic, and cultural resources, and to provide a healthy environment.

Policy 2.1 - The Town recognizes that the fiscal, as well as the environmental, social, and cultural impacts of new developments must be considered in the development review process.

Implementation

- The Town may continue to require that significant new subdivisions be phased over a specified time frame to control the impacts of new residential development.

Policy 2.2 - The Town will continue to require landowners, builders and developers to address the cumulative impacts of the use, or proposed use, of their properties on the community. Each must pay his/her fair share of the community impact of the proposed use. Such impacts include, but are not limited to, water supply and sewage disposal, groundwater protection, natural and ecological systems, stormwater management, drainage provisions, traffic flow, provision of recreation and open space areas, pedestrian access and connectivity, provision of bicycle amenities, and support of infrastructure improvements and required town services.

Implementation

- The Town shall develop mechanisms for measuring and accounting for the cumulative impacts of development and addressing these impacts within the development review process. The Town shall formalize this metric within regulations that will specify new requirements for applicants and provide clear decision criteria for review authorities.
- The Town shall require multi-modal trip generation analysis for major subdivisions and land development plans.
- The Town shall amend regulations and development review decision criteria to incorporate design standards for infrastructure improvements regarding pedestrian and bicycle circulation for both on-site facilities and connections to adjoining neighborhoods and villages.
- The Town will explore the possibility of enforcing limits on impervious cover in areas where watershed and/or aquifer protection issues are of paramount concern.

Policy 2.3 - The Town shall continue to relate the rate of commercial growth to the rate of population growth in its growth management programs in order to achieve stability to its tax rate and to provide necessary public services and facilities, while at the same time avoiding overdevelopment of commercial land uses which may alter the character of the Town.

Implementation

- The Town shall continue to annually review its population projections, building permit data and rate of subdivision and commercial development in an attempt to balance significant increases in population or high rates of residential or commercial construction with concomitant restrictions on growth rates based on the capacity of the public school system or other critical town capacities.
- The Town shall conduct a Build Out Analysis every year to ascertain trends and to determine the success of growth management strategies.
- The Town will review the appropriateness of existing zoning regulations on the "upper Main Street corridor" (Columbia Corners to the Dale Carlia intersection). This area, while providing varied commercial services, has retained a residential character and feel.

Policy 2.4 - The Town recognizes that maintaining a sustainable rate of residential development is critical to preserving its small-town character and providing for appropriate town services and facilities.

Implementation

- The Town shall continue to utilize its growth management tools such as the bi-annual Growth Management Program and the Development Pacing and Phasing Ordinance to provide for a sustainable rate of residential development.
- The Town shall continue to encourage future residential development to be located within the existing villages, as appropriate, in order to support a sustainable pattern of development and encourage more connected, walkable environments.
- The Town shall utilize its GIS system to identify and review "constrained" lots of record (vacant), and develop a regulatory structure to better consider such parcels when they come forward for active use.

Goal 3: To promote and require high standards of development to preserve and enhance the quality of life, to encourage a sense of community, to support a healthy, walkable environment and to protect the natural resources of the Town.

Policy 3.1 - The Town recognizes that its rural, small-town character and natural resources must be protected and enhanced through appropriate land use regulations, design guidelines, environmental protection, site planning and landscaping regulations.

Implementation

- The Town shall support a Low Impact Development (LID) approach to development and redevelopment by revising its regulations to provide innovative standards for resource protection and site design.

Policy 3.2 - The Town shall encourage landscape diversity that creates identity and a sense of place, fosters the creation of distinct neighborhoods and villages, and recognizes the natural, historic, and cultural features of the land and surrounding community.

Implementation

- The Historic District Commission and Conservation Commission shall be provided with training opportunities in order to expand their capacity in the development review process where appropriate.
- The Town will evaluate the appropriateness of establishing new Historic District Overlays within the Zoning Map and the use of additional regulatory tools for the purpose of historic preservation planning.
- The Town recognizes the historic, scenic and cultural values of the southwesterly approach (gateway) into Wakefield Village via the Post Road/Main Street corridor and will evaluate, consider and implement appropriate measures to preserve, protect and enhance the infrastructure, land uses and scenic characteristics of this corridor and vicinity.

Policy 3.3 - The Town discourages future residential growth which contributes to monotonous suburban-style subdivisions and encourages a high quality of design in the creation of new neighborhoods. The process of growth must be directed toward the creation of communities and directed away from urban sprawl.

Implementation

- Town will update the "South Kingstown Residential Design Manual" and the regulations for Flexible Design Residential Projects to improve standards for flexible frontage, landscaping, and transportation improvements.
- The Town will encourage the integration of green building design standards and sustainable development practices within development and redevelopment projects.
- The Town will encourage subdivision design and redevelopment projects that support active, healthy lifestyles through providing pedestrian-oriented environments, connectivity to nearby recreation resources, bicycle amenities, access to public transit, and home-based food production, where appropriate.

Policy 3.4 - The Town will continue to require landowners, builders, and developers to address the local impacts of the development or redevelopment of their properties on the community. Such local impacts include, but are not limited to, adequacy of transportation infrastructure, multi-modal transportation opportunities, pedestrian connectivity, design integration of the project with the existing natural and built environment, historic, cultural, and recreational resources, and requirements for the provision of municipal services to the site.

Implementation

- The Town shall adopt regulations that will require landowners, builders, and developers to minimize adverse impacts on the local community. These regulations shall specify requirements for applicants to explain and address local community impacts within their proposals and plans and provide review authorities with clear decision criteria.
- The Town shall adopt regulations that will require applicants to account for, consider, and address impacts on pedestrians and bicyclists.
- The Planning Board shall be provided with training opportunities to expand the capacity of its members to review potential developments impacts and determine defensible findings of fact and appropriate conditions within their decisions.
- To assist and improve the development review process the Town shall amend its regulations to expand existing requirements for professional peer review to apply to major residential, commercial or industrial land development projects or redevelopment proposals, Comprehensive Permits, and Zoning- Special Use Permits, where appropriate.

Policy 3.5 - The Town shall encourage quality design within its commercial development that provides an amenity to the area, supports a healthy, walkable environment, and avoids a strip highway commercial development patterns characterized by suburban-type shopping centers dominated by parking lots.

Implementation

- The Town shall encourage commercial development design that supports active modes of transportation such as walking, biking, and public transit.
- The Town shall amend the regulations for the Commercial Highway, Commercial Downtown, and Commercial Neighborhood Districts to address standards for building scale, architectural elements, pedestrian access and connectivity, signage, and landscaping.
- The Town shall explore ordinance and regulatory amendments for its Central Core Villages and adjacent commercial areas to encourage innovative commercial design, such as adopting form-based codes, commercial design standards, or a commercial development design manual for appropriate areas to support pedestrian-oriented building design, the integration of a mix of uses, and the reuse of underutilized or vacant structures and parcels.
- The Town shall consider the development of a Signage Ordinance to regulate signs within its commercial districts with a focus on supporting a pedestrian-oriented environment.

Policy 3.6 – The Town supports a policy of improved "access management" for local and state roads and discourages the creation of multiple driveways along the frontage of existing public streets in such a way as to create traffic safety hazards and contribute to visual degradation of scenic roadside areas.

Implementation

- The Town shall limit the creation of multiple, unnecessary driveways and curb-cuts during the development review process in order to support pedestrian activity.
- The Town shall permit the conversion of private streets to public streets for the purposes of maintenance according to an explicit road acceptance policy as adopted by the Town Council. The Town's policy is not to extend maintenance services to these areas as they are presently platted.

Policy 3.7 - The Town shall continue to work with the Coastal Resources Management Council and RI Department of Environmental Management to ensure that, to the extent permitted under the RI General Laws and regulations governing those agencies, assents and permits will be consistent with the community comprehensive plan and local zoning requirements.

Implementation

- The Town shall require more stringent standards, where appropriate, than the minimum standards applied by the Coastal Resources Management Council and RI Department of Environmental Management in their assent and permitting processes.
- The Town will require that all major land development projects and major subdivisions within Salt Pond Regional Special Area Management Plan jurisdictional areas comply with the density standards for Self Sustaining Lands (80,000 square feet/unit) and Lands of Critical Concern (120,000 square feet/unit).

Policy 3.8 - In accordance with Element 156 of the State Guide Plan, "RI Urban and Community Forest Plan" the Town encourages the preservation and protection of trees in the built environment by supporting policies and principles of good urban and community forestry.

Goal 4: To support a village-centric approach to growth, to distinguish the unique objectives for each Village, and to maintain and enhance the integrity of the villages.

Policy 4.1 - The Town supports a control of urban sprawl and dispersion by concentrating population density and infill development within the villages, as appropriate, and by providing these areas with public transportation, services, facilities, pedestrian and bicycle amenities, civic buildings, recreational resources, infrastructure improvements, and housing opportunities.

Implementation

- The Town shall review and revise its Zoning Ordinance and regulations relating to its villages to ensure that development and redevelopment will be complementary to the character of existing villages. This may include, but is not limited to, allowing for an appropriate mix of uses, revising standards controlling the size, shape, massing, scale and location of buildings and lots, and revising requirements for pedestrian access and connectivity, open space, parking signage, landscaping, and street widths.
- The Town shall invest in infrastructure expansions and improvements to support investment in land development and population density within the villages, as appropriate.
- The Town shall coordinate with state officials to encourage state investments in infrastructure in a manner that supports a village-centric approach.

Policy 4.2 - The Town shall support the revitalization of its historic village areas as vibrant, healthy, walkable communities, with bike paths and transit, and access to appropriately scaled mixed use commercial development. The Town will document, support, maintain and enhance the unique qualities of each village.

Implementation

- The Town acknowledges the distinctions between all its villages that provide each setting with a unique identity and sense of place. These distinctions must be considered when planning for appropriate growth management strategies for each village.
- The Town shall continue to support the development of Village Plans, such as the "South Kingstown Village Study: Villages of Wakefield and Peace Dale", to identify and establish the unique goals, strategies, and implementation actions appropriate for each village.
- The Town shall continue to implement the recommendations of its Village Plans and shall continue to identify goals and strategies for all its commercial areas using neo-traditional planning techniques to encourage pedestrian friendly and safe development.
- The Town shall continue to implement the recommendations of "South Kingstown Designing a Healthier Community" as they relate to supporting healthy village requirements.
- The Town will continue to use existing documents such as "An Inventory and Analysis of the Village and Rural Qualities of South Kingstown" as important baseline references for the development of future Village Plans.

Policy 4.3 - The Town recognizes the importance of encouraging commercial activity and a vital mix of uses within its Villages to support a healthy, walkable and sustainable model of economic and community development.

Implementation

- The Town shall ensure that the Village Plans incorporate an analysis of economic issues and service needs to address potential obstacles to achieving economic goals and service requirements to support village scaled values.
- The Town shall consider incentives for encouraging food outlets such as grocery stores, small markets, and other healthy food outlets to locate within its village areas. Such incentives may take the form of reduced licensing fees for businesses providing healthy food and regulatory incentives such as increasing allowances for roadside stands and allowing small-scale grocery stores as accessory uses in commercial and mixed-use developments.

Policy 4.4 - The Town recognizes the importance of providing a diversity of housing within its villages that can support a mix of businesses through localized residents that have diverse shopping and employment needs.

Implementation

- The Town shall review and revise its regulations to ensure that there are opportunities to locate a range of housing types and sizes within the villages.
- The Town shall ensure that the Village Plans incorporate an analysis of housing issues to address potential obstacles to achieving housing goals.

Goal 5: To create affordable housing opportunities for all income levels, age groups and population types within the Town - See Housing Element.

Policy 5.1 - The Town recognizes that improved communication between the Town Planning Department and the citizens of this community regarding the creation of affordable housing opportunities will result in better understanding of this specific issue within the community.

Implementation

- The Planning Department and Planning Board shall, as part of their annual work program, evaluate and implement appropriate measures to foster better communication and information regarding affordable housing opportunities within the community. Such measures may include a departmental planning procedure and outreach efforts to community groups.

Policy 5.2 - The Town shall continue to work to provide opportunities for the production of affordable housing to maintain residential diversity and to assure that local shops and offices will have a sufficient employment pool.

Implementation

- The Town shall evaluate the effectiveness of its inclusionary zoning ordinance to determine if additional amendments are needed.

Policy 5.3 - The Town shall continue to coordinate with state officials to encourage Comprehensive Permit Projects that contribute to the community through high quality design and an inclusive planning process.

Implementation

- The Town will engage state officials in an active dialogue concerning the trend of comprehensive permit applicants attempting to seek broad relief from local planning requirements that contribute to good design and quality of residential projects. Such dialogue will attempt to identify opportunities to amend state and local plans, statutes, ordinances and regulations to better achieve our shared goal of encouraging quality developments that provide affordable housing.
- The Town will establish standards for granting density bonuses relative to comprehensive permit applications that are directly related to suitability of the land to support development without adverse environmental impacts (ensure high quality development with safe water supply, reliable wastewater treatment, and proper stormwater management).

Goal 6: To protect and preserve a diversity of landscapes within the Town - See Natural and Cultural Resources Element.

Policy 6.1 - The Town supports the preservation of farmland for farming activities and encourages a local healthy food system by providing opportunities for local farmers to sell their products locally.

Implementation

- The Town shall conduct an audit of existing policies and land use ordinances regarding agricultural activities for consistency with the Rhode Island Agricultural Partnership's Five Year Strategic Plan and recommendations from "South Kingstown: designing a Healthier Community" to ensure the viability of farming activities and to support a local food system.
- The Town shall utilize a combination of regulatory techniques and amendments (zoning), public and private funding resources (land trusts, easements, purchase of development rights), and economic strategies (providing opportunities to sell/purchase locally grown products) to achieve the necessary protection of farmland and encouragement of farming activities.
- The Town Council shall consider a resolution stating that the Town and the University are supportive of a local food system that includes sustainable local agriculture and aquaculture activities.
- The Town will promote continued and new participation in the State's Farm, Forest and Open Space Program (FFOS). Promotion efforts will include education of the public and potential participants about the value of the program and active communication with existing participants about the benefits of continuing in the program.

Policy 6.2 - The Town values a continuous dialogue with residents and business owners to raise awareness of resources and the tools needed to preserve the diverse landscapes with the Town.

Implementation

- The Town will, on an ongoing basis, utilize the town website and other communication vehicles to provide information and increase awareness about the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the community. Such outreach shall also provide information about programs and options to protect and enhance these community features.

Policy 6.3 - The Town shall continue to expand its inventory of: a) historic buildings and structures; and, b) historic and prehistoric archaeological sites, making sure that all aspects and periods of South Kingstown's history are identified and preserved.

Implementation

- The Town shall expand the measures available for protecting cultural resources to provide maximum protection to South Kingstown's historic and prehistoric resources.

Goal 7: To adequately prepare for natural hazards including changes in climate and sea level rise.

Policy 7.1 - The Town recognizes the need to prepare for continued changes to our coastline on demands on our infrastructure from storm events and shifts in ocean currents.

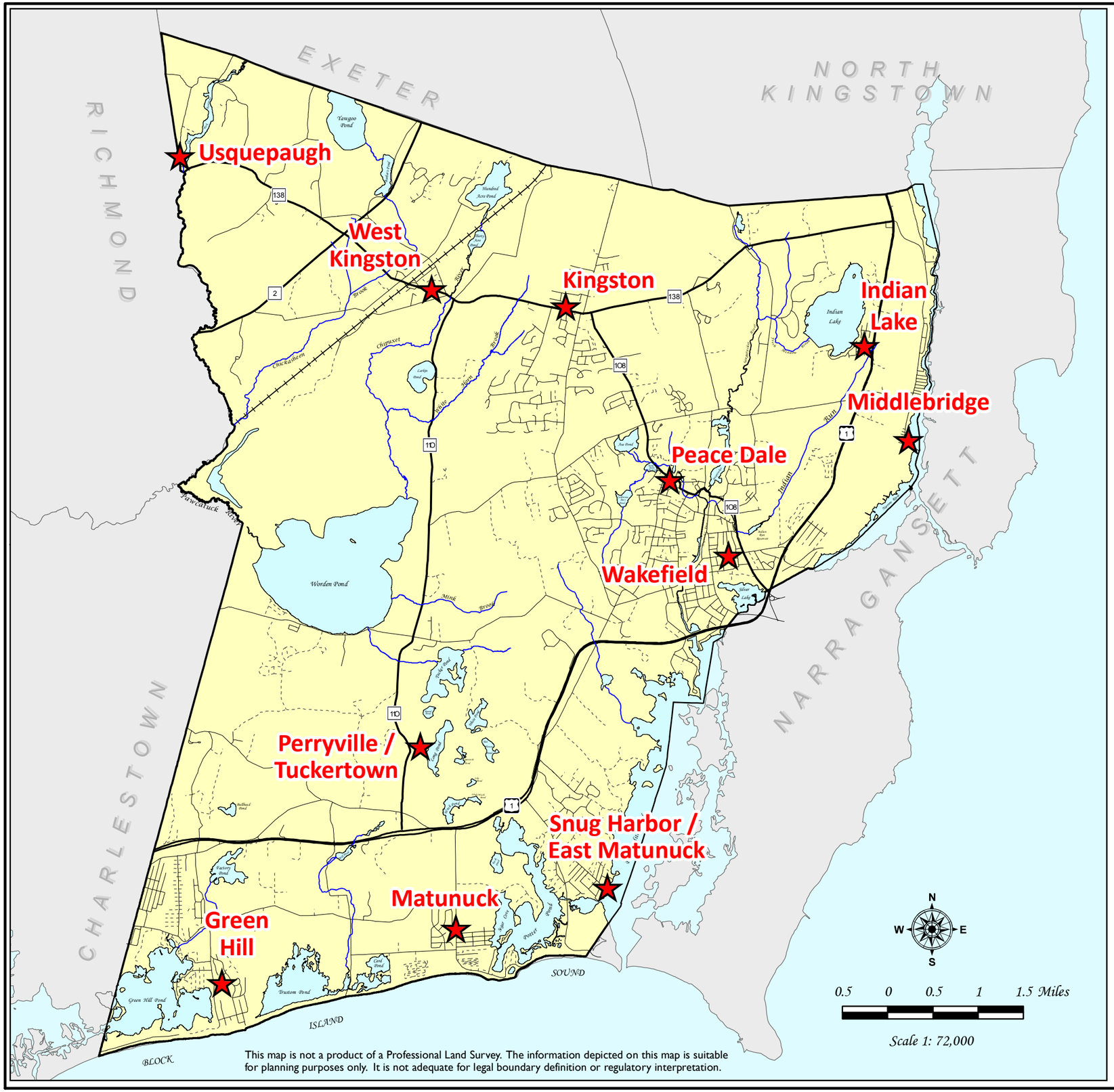
Implementation

- The Town shall coordinate with CRMC and develop policies to protect business owners, residents and the general public from impacts to our coastline, particularly in Matunuck Village.
- The Town shall continue to build upon and implement the measures identified in the *Multi-Hazard Mitigation Strategy Plan* (as revised).

Town of South Kingstown

Comprehensive Plan

Villages



This map is not a product of a Professional Land Survey. The information depicted on this map is suitable for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition or regulatory interpretation.

★ Village Centers

State / Federal Highway

Local Roads

Private Roads

Railroad

Streams

Lakes and Ponds

Based on "An Inventory and Analysis of the Village and Rural Qualities of South Kingstown". URI Working Group on Growth Managment Volunteers in Eleven Districts, 1988

SOUTH KINGSTOWN * INCORPORATED * WASHINGTON COUNTY RHODE ISLAND * 1723 *

Geographic Information System

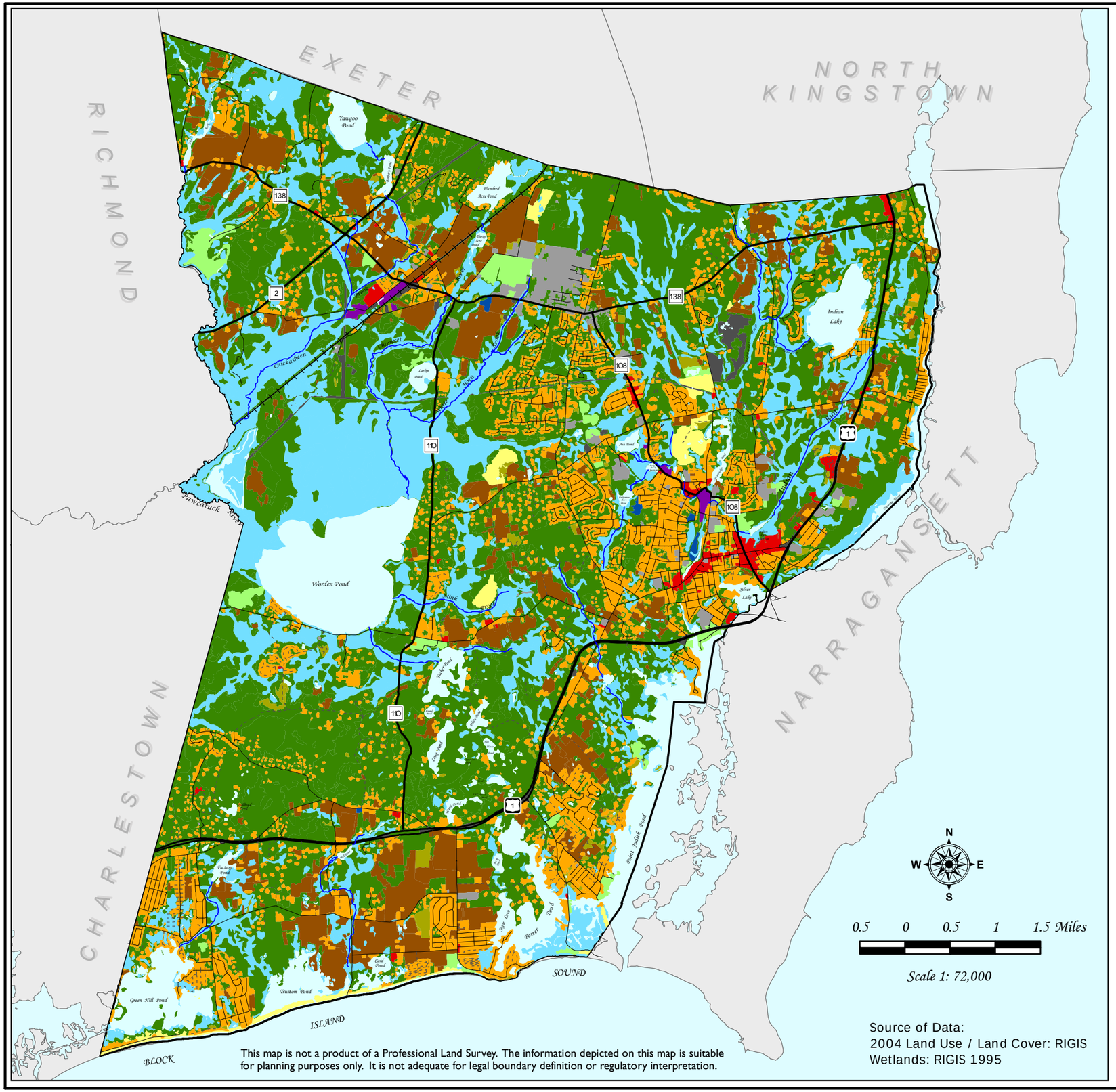
Map 2.1

PL14-02 cpb 1/14

Town of South Kingstown

Comprehensive Plan

RIGIS 2004 Land Use Land Cover



N
W E
S

0.5 0 0.5 1 1.5 Miles

Scale 1: 72,000

Source of Data:
2004 Land Use / Land Cover: RIGIS
Wetlands: RIGIS 1995

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- Forest
- Residential
- Agriculture
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Brushland - Vacant Land
- Developed Recreation
- Institutional
- Transportation - Utilities
- Barren Land
- Cemeteries
- Water
- Wetlands

Land Use Groupings Contain the Following Categories

RESIDENTIAL
High Density (<1/8 ac lots), Medium High Density (1/4 to 1/8 ac lots), Medium Density (1 to 1/4 ac lots), Medium Low Density (1 to 2 ac lots), Low density (> 2 ac lots)

FOREST LAND:
Deciduous Forest, Mixed Forest, Softwood Forest

TRANSPORTATION and UTILITIES
Roads, Railroads, Water and Sewage Treatment, Waste Disposal, Power Lines

AGRICULTURAL LAND:
Pasture, Cropland, Orchards, Groves, Nurseries, Confined Feeding Operations, Idle Agriculture

BARREN LAND:
Beaches, Sandy Areas, Rock Outcrops, Strip Mines, Quarries and Gravel Pits, Mixed Barren Areas, Transitional Areas

Land use / land cover from 2003 & 2004 orthophotography. The minimum mapping unit for this dataset is .5 acre. The land use classification scheme used for these data was based on the Anderson Level III modified coding schema used in previous land use datasets in Rhode Island (1988 & 1995) with some modifications for the 2003 classification. RIGIS 1995 Wetlands were superimposed on the RIGIS 2004 Land Use.

- State / Federal Highway
- Local Roads
- Private Roads
- Railroad
- Rivers and Streams

SOUTH KINGSTOWN * WASHINGTON COUNTY RHODE ISLAND * INCORPORATED 1723

Geographic Information System

Map 2.2

PL14-03 cpb 1/14

Town of South Kingstown

Comprehensive Plan

Land Use Plan Map

RESIDENTIAL

- Medium High Density (2.0 - 4.35 du/ac)
- Medium Density (1.09 - 1.99 du/ac)
- Low Density (0.55 - 1.08 du/ac)
- Very Low Density (< 0.55 du/ac)

COMMERCIAL

- Neighborhood
- Shore
- (A) Public Marina Special Management District

INDUSTRIAL

- Industrial - 1
- Industrial - 2

SPECIAL AREAS

- Government / Institutional
- Open Space
- Scenic Highways
- Greenways
- Neighborhood Centers / Village Districts
- Bike Paths

Detail Maps

1. Map 2.4 Wakefield / Peace Dale
2. Map 2.5 Kingston
3. Map 2.6 Kingstown Road

- Railroad
- Streams
- Lakes and Ponds

N W E S

0.5 0 0.5 1 1.5 Miles

Scale 1: 72,000

Source of Data:
Planning Department and SKGIS

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Geographic Information System

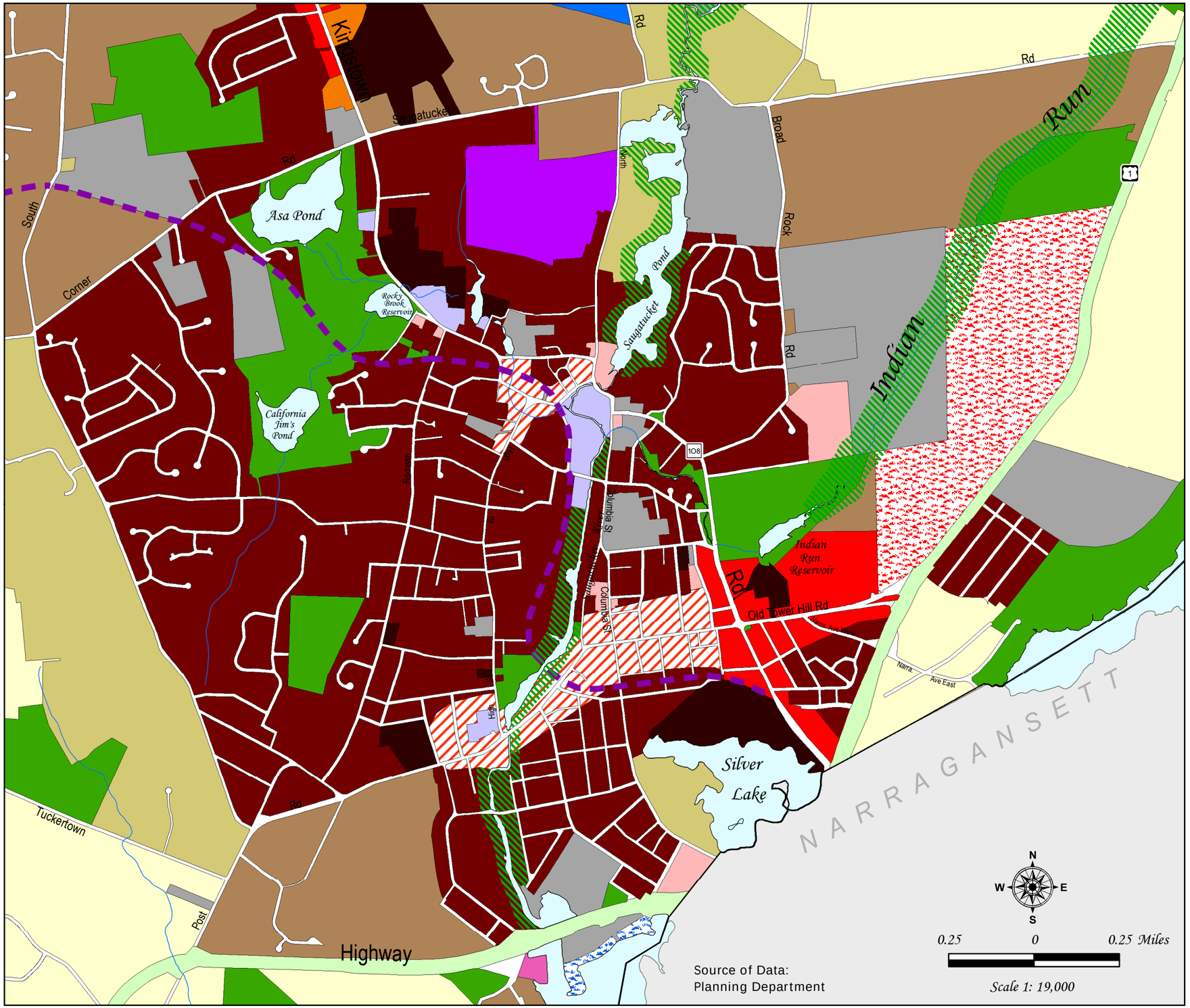
PL14-04 cpb 1/14

Map 2.3

Town of South Kingstown

Comprehensive Plan

Land Use Plan Map
Wakefield Detail



RESIDENTIAL

- High Density (> 4.35 du/ac)
- Medium High Density (2.0 - 4.35 du/ac)
- Medium Density (1.09 - 1.99 du/ac)
- Low Density (0.55 - 1.08 du/ac)
- Very Low Density (< 0.55 du/ac)

COMMERCIAL

- Highway
- Downtown
- Neighborhood
- Mixed Use
- Route 1 Special Management District
- Public Marina Special Management District

SPECIAL AREAS

- Government / Institutional
- Open Space
- Scenic Highways
- Greenways
- Bike Paths

INDUSTRIAL

- Industrial - 1
- Industrial - 2
- Industrial - 3

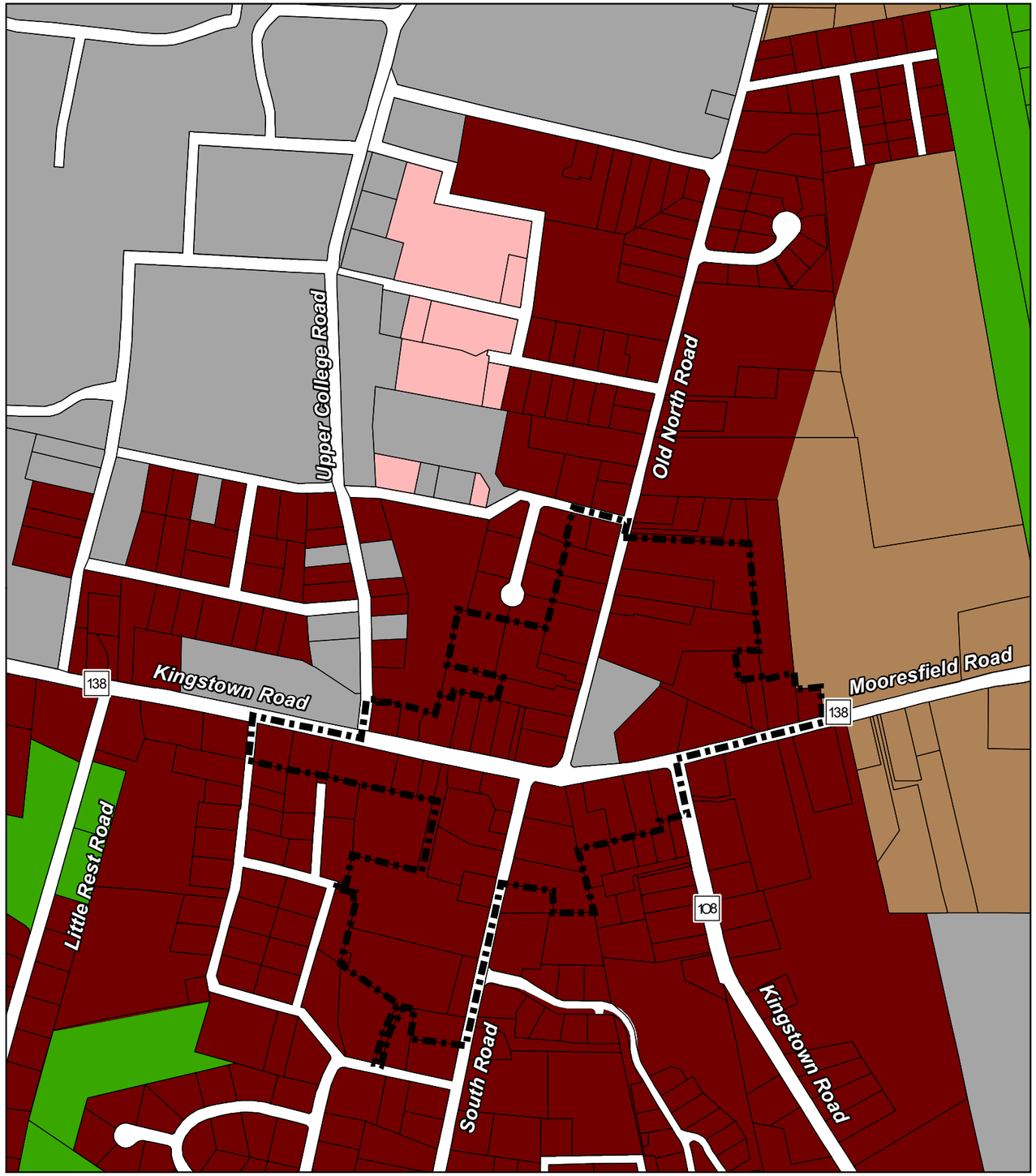
- Streams
- Lakes and Ponds

Geographic Information System

Map 2.4

PL14-05 cpb 1/14

This map is not a product of a Professional Land Survey. The information depicted on this map is suitable for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition or regulatory interpretation.



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Town of South Kingstown

Comprehensive Plan

Land Use Plan Map
Kingston Detail

RESIDENTIAL

- Medium High Density (2.0 - 4.35 du/ac)
- Medium Density (1.09 - 1.99 du/ac)

COMMERCIAL

- Neighborhood

- Government / Institutional
- Open Space

- Kingston Historic District

N
W E
S

0 500 1,000 Feet

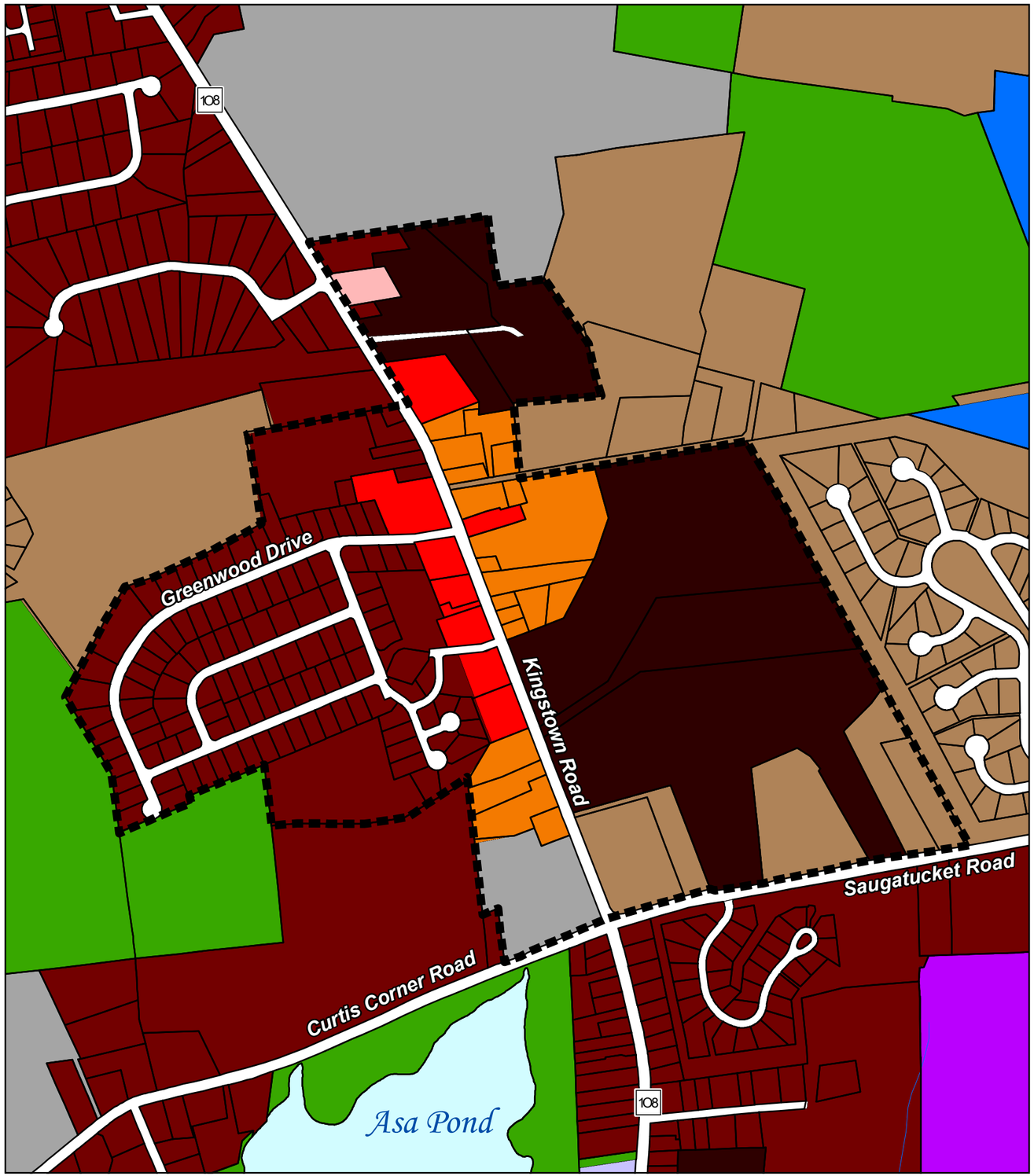
Scale 1: 6,000
One inch = 500 feet

Source of Data:
Planning Department

Map 2.5

Geographic Information System

PL14-06 cpb1/14



This map is not a product of a Professional Land Survey. The information depicted on this map is suitable for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition or regulatory interpretation.

Town of South Kingstown

Comprehensive Plan

Land Use Plan Map
Kingstown Road Detail

Kingstown Road Special Management District

RESIDENTIAL

- High Density (> 4.35 du/ac)
- Medium High Density (2.0 - 4.35 du/ac)
- Medium Density (1.09 - 1.99 du/ac)

COMMERCIAL

- Highway
- Neighborhood
- Mixed Use

INDUSTRIAL

- Industrial - 2
- Industrial - 3

SPECIAL AREAS

- Government / Institutional
- Open Space

N W E S

0 500 1,000 Feet

Scale 1: 6,000
One inch = 500 feet

Source of Data:
Planning Department

Map 2.6

Geographic Information System

PL14-07 cpb 1/14

Town of South Kingstown

Comprehensive Plan

Natural Hazards

Area Prone to Minor & Major Hurricane Storm Surge Flooding

Area Prone to Major Hurricane Storm Surge Flooding (Surge Greater than 10 ft)

Shelters

Primary

Secondary

Regional

Hospital

Evacuation Routes

Out of Town / To Evacuation Shelter

Route Out of Town

To Evacuation Shelter

Evacuation Checkpoints

Primary Local

Secondary Local (If Manpower Available)

State Police

State Police/ Local Police

Flood Information For Inland Areas

Areas Flooded in a 100 Year Storm Event

Road Section Vulnerable to 100 Year Storm Event Flooding

State / Federal Highway

Local Roads

Private Roads

Rivers and Streams

Railroad

N W E S

0.5 0 0.5 1 1.5 Miles

Scale 1: 72,000

The evacuation routes depicted on this map are designated by the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA). If local authorities recommend evacuation, you should leave. Their advice is based on knowledge of the strength of the storm and its potential for death and destruction.

Source of Data:
100 year storm event: FEMA Flood Zone A, AE, AO: RIGIS
Areas prone to Minor & Major flooding: RIGIS / RIEMA
Checkpoints, Shelters, Evacuation Route: SKGIS

This map is not a product of a Professional Land Survey. The information depicted on this map is suitable for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition or regulatory interpretation.

Map 2.7

Geographic Information System

PL14-08 cpb 1/14

Town of South Kingstown

Comprehensive Plan

Vacant Developable Land

Vacant Land

- Developable
- Constrained (High Water Table)
- Local Knowledge

Local knowledge includes:
- Land that cannot be developed (i.e. cemeteries)
- Land approved for development but not yet constructed
- Land that cannot be further developed based on prior approvals (i.e. Residential compounds)

Vacant Land is based on RIGIS Land Use/Land Cover Classifications and the Town's 2009 GIS Buildout Model updated with newly acquired protected open space and new subdivisions.

- State / Federal Highway
- Local Roads
- Private Roads
- Railroad
- Streams
- Lakes and Ponds

N W E S

0.5 0 0.5 1 1.5 Miles

Scale 1: 72,000

This map is not a product of a Professional Land Survey. The information depicted on this map is suitable for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition or regulatory interpretation.

Source of Data:
SKGIS and SK Planning Department

Map 2.8

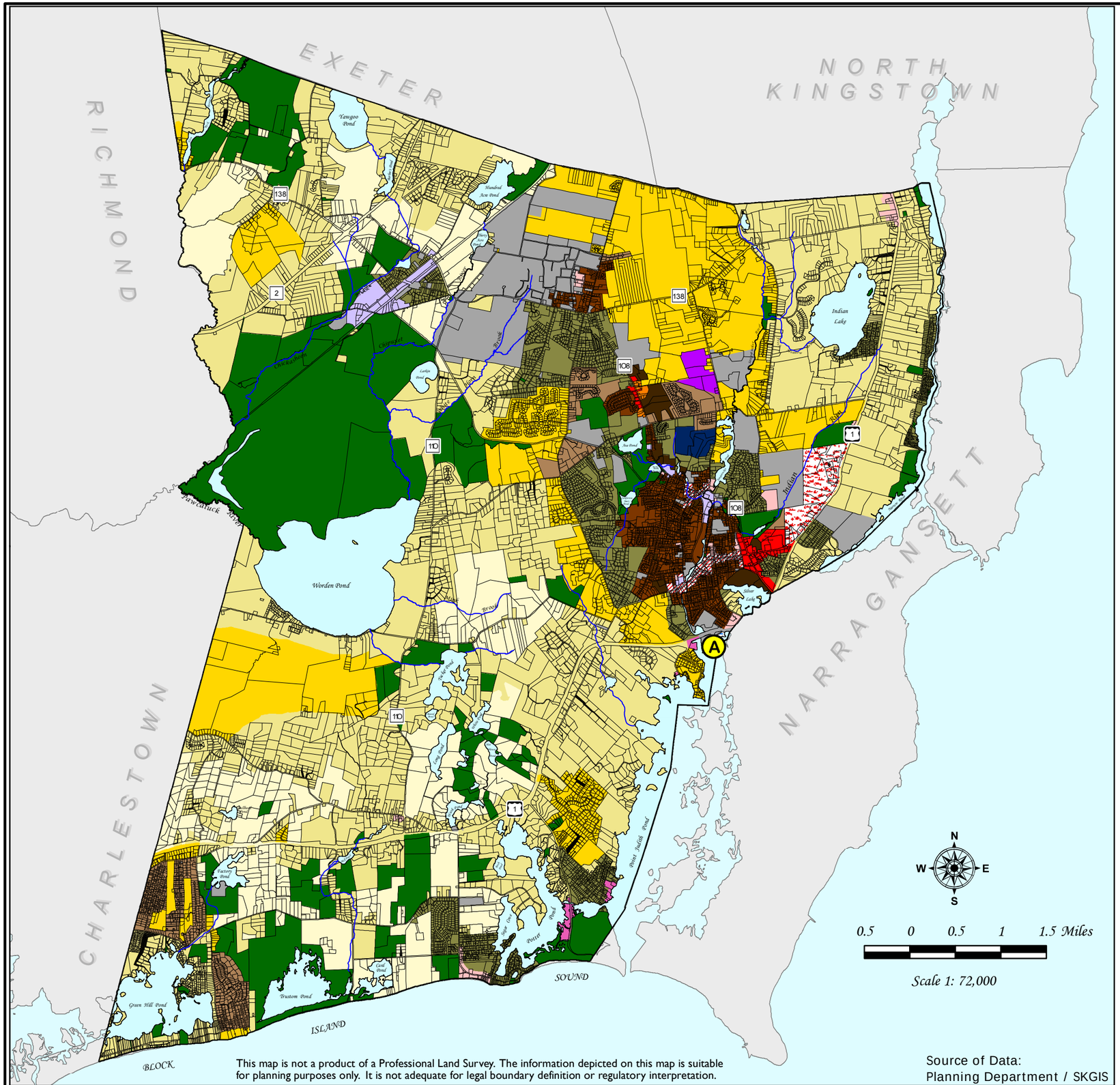
Geographic Information System

PL14-09 cpb 1/14

Town of South Kingstown

Comprehensive Plan

Zoning



RESIDENTIAL

- RM : Multi-Family
- R10 :10,000 sq ft
- R20 : 20,000 sq ft
- R30 : 30,000 sq ft
- R40 : 40,000 sq ft
- R80 : 80,000 sq ft
- R200 : 200,000 sq ft

COMMERCIAL

- CH : Highway
- CD : Downtown
- CN : Neighborhood
- CW : Waterfront
- MU : Mixed Use
- SMD : Rte 1 Special Management District
- (A) SMD: Public Marina Special Management District

INDUSTRIAL

- IND-1 : Industrial 1
- IND-2 : Industrial 2
- IND-3 : Industrial 3

- OS : Open Space
- GI : Government and Institutional

Note: This is not the official Zoning map for the Town of South Kingstown. It is provided for illustrative purposes only.

Adopted: May 10, 1999
Revisions through October 15, 2013

Lakes and Ponds

Streams

This map is not a product of a Professional Land Survey. The information depicted on this map is suitable for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition or regulatory interpretation.

Source of Data:
Planning Department / SKGIS

Map 2.9

Geographic Information System

PL14-10 cpb 1/14

Housing

Housing Element

Introduction

The Town of South Kingstown views the provision of high quality and diverse housing as one of the most important ongoing issues within the community. Providing and maintaining quality homes throughout the Town are inextricably linked to issues of economic development, fiscal stability, social equity, and long-range environmental sustainability. Forces that affect housing policy and strategies in the community are complex and include high marketability, a strong historic and cultural fabric, sensitive landscapes, a complex transportation network, aging infrastructure, and the presence of a large university. As such, South Kingstown continually works to balance these perspectives in our attempts to guide future development policies, always mindful of the overarching goal to provide a good home for all residents today and into the future.

South Kingstown is a community of densely developed villages with outlying low-density development. The pattern of housing types reflects the past development of the Town as a series of mill villages. Housing in each village includes structures ranging from the beautiful homes of the mill owner to historic multifamily mill-worker housing and includes newer construction and apartments. The diversity of well-maintained historic housing in the community is reflected in the establishment of both local and national historic districts, which provide a strong reference pattern for the village environs. Outside of these established districts, the community boasts an impressive collection of somewhat scattered historic structures that provide cultural anchors within their neighborhoods, which help to inform future development and property improvements.

Historic housing in the Village of Kingston

Traditionally single-family homes dominate the housing stock in the community, providing 80 percent of the housing. However, recent years have seen a trend towards multi-family and apartment housing comprising an increasing percentage of all units constructed. Of the 1,644 permits authorized for new housing between 2001 and 2010, single & duplex housing construction amounted to 908 units or an average of 91 units per year. All other housing types including multi-unit, apartment, accessory, and mobile units totaled 736 units over the same period or an average of 74 units per year. In the short term it is expected that this relative balance will continue as a number of multi-household developments build out. It is also anticipated that with an improving economy the local housing market will return to a more normal status with single-household construction reasserting itself in proportion to multi-household construction. It is not expected that a return to the boom years of the mid 1980's and early 2000's will occur during the next five to ten year period. This is due to the Town's growth management efforts and a diminished stock of larger parcels with minimal constraints to development.

Housing in the Village of Peace Dale.

Housing in town is an eclectic mix of historic structures, post WWII construction, and new subdivisions. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 64 percent of housing units were built before 1970 and 18 percent were built between 1990 and 2000). The Town has continued to monitor the rate of residential growth for the purpose of administering its Pacing and Phasing Program. While the rate of growth has slowed in recent years, the Pacing and Phasing Program provides a comfortable degree of certainty in forecasting future residential growth and associated town services. Impact fees will continue to address the actual costs of providing services to new construction.

One of the major goals of the Housing Element of the Comprehensive Plan Update is to build upon the established recommendations carried forward from the 2005 Affordable Housing Production Plan which specifically targeted the development and maintenance of affordable housing as defined by the Rhode Island Low and Moderate Housing Income Act. The State's definition of "low or moderate income housing" includes,

> '*any housing whether built or operated by any public agency or any nonprofit organization or by any limited equity housing cooperative or any private developer, that is subsidized by a federal, state, or municipal government subsidy under any program to assist the construction or rehabilitation of housing affordable to low or moderate income households, as defined in the applicable federal or state statute, or local ordinance and that will remain affordable through a land lease and/or deed restriction for ninety-nine (99) years or such other period that is either agreed to by the applicant and town or prescribed by the federal, state, or municipal government subsidy program but that is not less than thirty (30) years from initial occupancy'* (www.rilin.state.ri.us).

The criterion used to define this occupancy category is based upon the relationship of community income statistics to its surrounding Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Low to moderate households include those reporting incomes below 80 percent of the MSA median household income.

According to Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation, the official count of affordable housing in South Kingstown for the 2012 calendar year stands at 5.39 percent of the total year-round unit count (589 units out of 10,900 total year-round units, 2010 Census figure). The strategies and recommendations in the 2005 Affordable Housing Production Plan, carried forward in this Comprehensive Plan Update, are designed to provide South Kingstown with a road map to meet the 10% affordable housing goal set by the State Low-Moderate Income Housing Act. The 2005 Plan proposed 826 new affordable units to be established over the next 15 years. Between the years 2003 and 2012, an estimated 111 units of affordable housing units were built in the Town of South Kingstown. The Town will continue to monitor and potentially amend its inclusionary zoning provisions and other initiatives to ensure their continued success. The Town will also work with town residents, business owners, and local non-profit agencies to develop affordable housing through rehabilitation, conversion, and new construction within the village areas, where appropriate. A more detailed summary of housing and demographic data is provided as part of the Introduction to this Comprehensive Plan Update. Statistics on existing housing stock, incomes of South Kingstown families, regional housing data, and other essential information can be located in that section of the Plan.

South Kingstown recognizes the need and the advantages to provide subsidized workforce housing that will be counted by the state toward its local inventory. The restrictions associated with these properties ensure that future resale will occur in a manner that provides continued access to these homes for families of low to moderate income. The Town also recognizes that the pursuit of this goal is part of a larger, more comprehensive housing strategy that is designed to meet the needs of all demographic groups and this Housing Element reflects that more comprehensive approach. Further, the Town continues to pursue strategies that will create affordable units, but may not be recognized by the state and counted toward the local inventory. Allowances for accessory dwelling units, the use of Section 8 vouchers, and the future development of cottage housing represent a few examples these strategies, which will continue to diversify high quality housing within the community.

Housing Achievements

The Town of South Kingstown has continued to meet the following goal established in the 1992 Comprehensive Plan:

> ***To encourage a range of housing choices in order that the Town can continue to be home to a vital mix of people.***
>
> *The above goal was revised for this Comprehensive Plan Update. See the Housing Action Plan below. Achievements by the Town to meet the above goal include:*

- The Town has carried forward recommendations from the 2005 Affordable Housing Production Plan into this Comprehensive Plan.
- The Town established the South Kingstown Affordable Housing Collaborative to support the implementation of affordable housing policies and recommendations. The Collaborative also continues its role in educating the public on housing diversity issues and assumes an active advisory role in assisting the Planning Board's review of major subdivisions, land development projects, and comprehensive permits.
- Town voters enthusiastically supported the 50 million dollar bond program in 2006 which has funded the state administered "Building Homes Rhode Island" program
- The Town amended its Zoning Ordinance in 2006 to allow for Inclusionary Zoning provisions to increase the number of workforce housing units provided throughout town, which provides for a 20 percent density bonus.
- The Town enacted Zoning Ordinance amendments to establish "fee in lieu" requirements for housing developments where required workforce housing units cannot be established on the development site.
- The Town Council established a "Housing Fund" in 2006 to provide general support of affordable housing development in the community. The Council also placed the sum of $10,000 in the fund as seed money.
- The Town Council and Affordable Housing Collaborative have supported state initiatives such as the "Neighborhood Opportunities Program" to increase resources available to support the production of a diverse housing stock.
- The Town passed a Phase II amendment to the Town's Zoning Ordinance, which allows for the development of multifamily dwellings, including duplexes, in a number of residential zones where they were previously not allowed (R30, R20 and R10 Zones).
- Accessory apartments are now permitted by the Town under an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. These apartments allow owners of (previously) single family houses to rent space in

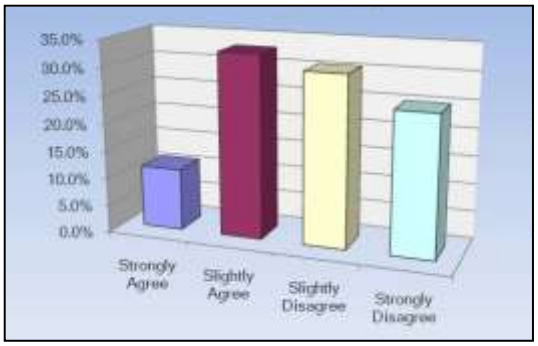
their homes or outbuildings (such as over-garage lofts) as apartments. In November of 2006, design standards were modified to allow for a total area of 750 S.F., calculated using the exterior measurements of the structure including any covered porch areas but excluding stairs providing access to the accessory apartment.

- The Town elected to waive Impact Fees for developers of affordable housing.
- The Town also elected to waive Phasing and Pacing regulations for developers of affordable housing.
- An estimated 111 units of affordable housing units were built in the Town between the years 2003 and 2012.
- The Town's tax assessment policy for affordable units is reflective of the unit's acquisition cost, not full market value.

Survey Findings

The South Kingstown Community Survey conducted in 2010 included the following findings with regard to housing issues:

- There is a clear consensus from the community that the Town should make it a priority to move toward the state mandate of 10% subsidized housing stock. Over 70 percent agree (either strongly or slightly) with this statement. This was the first time a Comprehensive Plan Community Survey had asked residents a question directly about the state mandated affordable housing stock.
- The community is more evenly divided on the adequate availability of small-scale, affordable housing in town that is not subsidized. Approximately 44 percent of respondents agree (either strongly or slightly) with this statement while 56 percent disagree (either strongly or slightly). These results are comparable to a similar question in the 2003 survey that asked if there is an adequate amount of affordable housing in town for people with moderate incomes. At the time, approximately 45 percent of respondents to the 2003 survey question had agreed (either strongly or slightly) while 56 percent had disagreed (either strongly or slightly).



There is an adequate amount of small-scale, affordable housing in Town (not subsidized).

Visioning Process

The visioning process for the Comprehensive Plan Update occurred through a series of information gathering techniques including:

- Two public workshops focused on comprehensive planning issues held on April 6, 2010 and May 24, 2011;
- Informational interviews were conducted with key community members and board members;
- Multiple public outreach and engagement events occurring throughout the concurrent Healthy Places by Design grant process;

- Planning Board work sessions were used to discuss and refine Comprehensive Plan concepts; and
- A project website was used to provide updates and draft materials to the community.

The following section summarizes the concepts and ideas that emerged from the visioning process regarding housing. These ideas were organized into the following groups: providing a range of housing options, promoting quality development, and revising development regulations.

Providing a Range of Housing Options

- Offer a diverse array of housing options, where appropriate, including small-scale "cottage" housing, multi-family housing, and subsidized workforce housing.
- Ensure that planning documents, including the Comprehensive Plan, reflect that workforce housing is a key element of many housing goals, whether subsidized or non-subsidized.
- Review and assess the recommendations included within the 2005 Affordable Housing Production Plan. Recommendations that are not being pursued should be identified and addressed.
- Elicit feedback from the Town's Affordable Housing Collaborative in shaping town policy relative to housing issues in general, and in assisting the Planning Board with development review when appropriate.
- Ensure that affordable housing developments are not unduly restrictive toward age and/or number of bedrooms per house to limit opportunities for family occupancy.
- Promote the use of the inclusionary zoning model as the regulatory process of preference of for-profit developers. This model is seen as providing workforce housing opportunities for the community while maintaining appropriate densities and quality of the finished development.
- Coordinate with state housing agencies to improve the manner in which affordable housing units are developed and counted. Alternative approaches can include accessory apartments, homes limited in size, and others not currently considered on the affordable housing inventory.
- Identify potential improvements for Town Housing Authority sites and work with the South Kingstown Housing Authority, the Affordable Housing Collaborative, and community members to develop an action plan and access necessary resources for achieving those improvements.
- Consider creating a small but consistent revenue stream for use by the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
- Research grant and/or tax abatement opportunities to fund rehabilitation of existing housing units throughout town.
- Investigate property inventory held by municipal government or the Land Trust to determine if any properties are suitable for development as workforce housing.
- Improve communication and raise public awareness concerning workforce housing in South Kingstown.

Promoting Quality Development

- Continue to discourage monotonous, sprawling residential development in favor of development that is consistent with the character of the Town and development within the existing village areas.
- Ensure that special sites are considered as a whole and in their neighborhood context (view sheds, cultural resources, etc.).
- Promote and incentivize the integration of "green building" design practices within the development review process.

- Strengthen and refine the "Village Model" approach to residential growth within all planning documents, and specifically within the Comprehensive Plan.
- Account for the unique identities and attributes of each village while providing for a vital mix of housing options.
- Explore specific opportunities to provide attractive and appropriately-scaled multi-family housing developments and mixed-use developments within underutilized village parcels.
- Continue to use infrastructure expansions and investments as a means for guiding residential growth.
- Provide town boards with the training necessary to expand their capacities and overall role in residential development review.
- Encourage new development to set aside green space that is well designed in terms of pedestrian compatibility and functionality. This could include community gardens.
- Encourage the development of recreational green space within walking distance of all homes in the community.

Revising Development Regulations

- Revise/update the South Kingstown Residential Design Manual and the regulations for Flexible Design Residential Project, and landscaping regulations.
- Promote innovative standards for high quality design such as low impact development/conservation design. The use of these standards and practices must become the norm rather than an option.
- Account for the cumulative impacts of residential development through a more defined regulatory mechanism.
- Engage state officials in an active dialog regarding the recent trend of using the Comprehensive Permit Process as a means to circumvent/waive town regulations and design standards that contribute to quality design. This dialog should help increase awareness regarding this issue and improve state and local plans, ordinances, and regulations relative to the design and development of quality affordable housing.
- Explore the potential for a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program within the Town to reinforce the historic village development pattern or as part of an inter-municipal program.
- Review existing regulations concerning "tear-downs" and the conversion of seasonal units to year round use to ascertain if revisions are necessary.

Achieving the 10% Goal for Affordable Housing

In response to a drastic shortage of affordable housing in Rhode Island, in January 2002, the State designed *The Rhode Island Low and Moderate Income Housing Act* (45-53), which mandates cities and towns to meet or have plans to meet a 10% affordability goal. To comply with the Act, in 2005, Rhode Island communities, including South Kingstown, developed strategies to ensure that a minimum of 10% of the total housing stock will be affordable. This Housing Element of the Comprehensive Plan reflects and supports this State requirement. This element provides a road map to exceed the goal of setting aside 10% of the Town's housing stock as "affordable" to low and moderate income families as defined by the state. According to the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), the 2010 area median household income for Washington County was $72,000, which translates to households earning less than $57,600 as the threshold for low to moderate income households. To date, the Town of South Kingstown has made modest progress towards the 10% goal. Table 1 depicts the composition of existing affordable housing

within the Town of South Kingstown, as reported by Rhode Island Housing (July 2013) for calendar year 2012.

Table 1. Existing Affordable Housing in South Kingstown

Population	Development Name	Type	Tenure	Total Units
Elderly				
	Indian Run Village	RIH Elderly	Rental	115
	La Casa Apartments	HUD 202	Rental	70
	Peace Dale Estates	RHS 515	Rental	32
	Peace Dale House	HUD 202	Rental	99
	Village Gardens	Public Housing – Elderly	Rental	18
Family				
	Branch Street	RIH Family	Homeownership	2
	Champagne Heights	Public Housing – Family	Rental	40
	Fournier Estates	Public Housing – Family	Rental	12
	Green Street	RIH Family	Rental	4
	Kersey Road	RIH Family	Rental	2
		RIH Family	Rental	3
	Kingstown Road	RIH Family	Homeownership	1
		RIH Family	Homeownership	1
	Lewis Lane	RIH Family	Homeownership	5
	Meadowbrook	RIH Family	Rental	47
	Meadowbrook II	RIH Family	Rental	12
	Rocky Brook Condos	Other Family	Homeownership	15
	Tupelo Road	Other Family	Homeownership	1
	Monticello Drive	Other Family	Homeownership	2
Special Needs				
	Group Home Beds	Group Home Beds	N/A	86
	High Street	Supportive Units	Rental	2
	Kingstown Road	Supportive Units	Rental	3
	North Road	Supportive Units	Rental	3
	Rodman Street	Supportive Units	Rental	1
	Bayberry Court	HUD 811	Rental	10
Total				**588**

Notes:
**Rhode Island Housing, as of July 31, 2013.*
The above table does not reflect Section 8 Housing Certificates administered by the South Kingstown Housing Authority.

In addition to the units listed above, there are a number of units that are built, under construction, or approved and pending construction. The Town anticipates an additional 45 units (Table 2) that include both rental and home ownership opportunities.

Table 2. Constructed and/or Approved Affordable Housing Units Since 2010

Project	Type	Status	Total Number of Units	Number of Affordable Units
Brandywyne	Private – Elderly	Constructed	40	10
Kenyon Terrace	HUD 811 - Special Needs	Approved	6	6
Domestic Violence Resources Center of Washington County	Transitional Housing - Special Needs	Approved	5	5
Heritage Estates	Private developer – home ownership	Constructed	10	2
Glen at Saugatucket	Private developer – home ownership	Under Construction	14	2
Stone Soup Farm	Private developer – home ownership	Approved	18	3
Old North Village	Habitat for Humanity – home ownership	Under Construction	4	4
Whittier Estates	Private developer – home ownership	Approved	11	2
East Matunuck Farms	Private developer – home ownership	Under Construction	40	7
Hopkins Green II	Private developer – rental	Approved	16	4
Anticipated Future Units			**164**	**45**

The Town is also consulting with developers on additional projects that will include affordable units; however, due to the uncertainty of the existing economic climate, developers have yet to commence with the approval process with local boards. These projects are anticipated to be constructed in the next 10 years, but actual unit projections are estimated due to many factors that influence the number of housing units a developer proposes in its final plans, and what percentage, if any, will be dedicated as affordable units.

Need for Affordable Housing

Measuring the need for affordable housing is typically done with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) Data Book. The CHAS data are an assemblage of information collected during the Decennial Census and was last published in 2000. The data offers a snapshot of low income households (making 80% or less of the area's median income) with housing problems such substandard housing conditions, or incurring housing costs that exceed 30% of a household's income. Using the CHAS data is considered "best practice" when developing a local housing needs analysis. However, updated CHAS data are not available for 2010. Therefore, the Town revisited the 2000 data to examine whether other analyses can be used to build upon the data presented in 2005, identify needs, and shape local policy.

The 2000 CHAS data revealed that 1,717 (18.4%) of South Kingstown's low income households faced housing problems, and the vast majority of those struggled primarily with cost burdens, implying that substandard housing was not a major problem. A majority of these households were homeowners and one third were elderly. The data also indicated that the lower the income, the more likely it was that a household would experience housing problems. Households with extremely low incomes (making less than 30% of the area's median income) made up nearly one third of the low income households with housing problems.

Current Census showed shifts in the Town's demographics that are comparable to the findings in the 2000 CHAS data. The Town's population is getting older. The median age continues to increase, from 33.6 in 2000 to 35.7 in 2010. Residents over the age of 65 increased 2.1% in 2010, from 11.6% in 2000 to 13.7%.

In examining income, median income has stayed relatively the same from 2000 to 2010. In 2000, the median income was $56,325, or $72,531when adjusted for inflation to 2009 dollars. In 2010, the median income was estimated to be $73,020 (reported in 2009 dollars), a slight increase, but very similar. What has changed is the distribution of income among households. In 2010, low and very low income households as well as households with incomes greater than 100% of the median income both increased from the 2000 statistics. Those households with incomes near the median decreased. Because the number of low income households has increased, the need for affordable housing options for this group remains. Further, the loss of households around the median income stresses the need to retain these households and meet their demand for housing opportunities.

Finally, the demand for affordable rental housing continues to be an issue in South Kingstown. As discussed in the Introduction, the average rental cost of a two-bedroom apartment in South Kingstown in 2009 was $1,259. This price is affordable for households earning at least $46,800 per year. Since about 3,038 South Kingstown households earn less than this in 2009, some are spending more than 30% of their incomes on household expenses, or seek housing outside of Town.

Review of Strategies

It is important to examine several of the developments that have been or are in the process of being approved to see how the housing policies of South Kingstown create homes that truly meet the needs of the community. An evaluation of current strategies to meet the state-mandated 10% goal revealed that they have been effective to varying degrees, and the development has been slow to recover from the housing bubble and credit market crash in 2008. Resources once available to develop affordable housing have also been reduced drastically across the country. These financial resources are critical to local non-profits in meeting area demand. It is uncertain when conditions will truly improve in the region and the state, and if they will return to the robust activity of the early 2000s.

Given these constraints, the Town of South Kingstown has had modest but steady successes in promoting and achieving affordable housing in the community. In 2004, the affordable unit inventory stood at 485 units or 5.07%. In 2012, it rose to 588, comprising 5.39% of the year round units in the Town. Housing units "in the pipeline" (Table 2) would shows the potential for an additional 45 units of affordable housing. Much remains to be done and the Town has worked diligently in this area. The Affordable Housing Collaborative has consistently promoted and advocated for affordable housing in the Town and will continue to do so.

Comprehensive Permits

Comprehensive permits have been the dominant strategy to develop affordable units in South Kingstown and the Town will continue to pursue this strategy to meet the demand.

Recent submittals include the Kenyon Terrace Comprehensive Permit, partially funded through HUD's Section 811 program for "permanent supportive housing". The development involves the rehabilitation of existing structures to provide six units of housing for persons with disabilities. Another example includes

the Rodman Commons Comprehensive Permit application, which has added 20 units of affordable apartments for elderly residents to an existing 50-unit development. These Comprehensive Permit applications are supported by the Town due to the manner in which they combine "smart growth strategies" such as redevelopment and infill with the need to provide high percentages of affordable units to specific groups of residents.

The South Kingstown Housing Authority has excess land that could allow for expansion of their existing 40 family rental units at Champaign Heights and comprehensive permit would the best option for this project. The Housing Authority has shown interest in pursuing the development of additional units, but funding programs that would support this type of project have been limited.

Inclusionary Zoning

In addition to the targeted Comprehensive Permits that have been supported by the Town, more incremental "scattered site" approaches have also been embraced. Since the adoption of the Inclusionary Zoning ordinance, the Town has added two units of affordable housing into new subdivisions. The Inclusionary Zoning ordinance was adopted coincidental with the economic downturn which greatly limited new building activity. The Town expects to see additional unit production in the near term with an improving economy and as projects now under review come forward.

Although this model does not provide large numbers of workforce housing units as part of individual developments, it does integrate deed restricted units into market rate neighborhoods in a manner that is socially sustainable. The Town acknowledges this preference for integrating deed restricted housing into new neighborhoods (through Inclusionary Zoning) or into established neighborhoods (through accessory apartments) as central to its overall approach to this important issue.

Accessory Dwelling Units

Town regulations permit accessory units in most residential zones by right (maximum 750 square feet and one bedroom). There has been modest interest in this vehicle to add units and production is in the range of six to 12 units per year on average; however current ordinances do not require the units to meet affordability requirements. Because this strategy still poses an opportunity to integrate affordable units into existing neighborhoods, the Town will continue to target resources that may offer incentives that encourage property owners toward committing the units as affordable.

Duplexes

Duplex construction and conversion is allowed by right in R-10 and R-20 zones. There has been little interest in this approach. Some property owners have indicated that financing for such uses and the practical aspects of conversion have stymied this approach. Town regulations currently do not require any units to meet affordability requirements for either conversion or new construction. As with accessory dwelling units, this strategy still poses an opportunity to integrate affordable units into existing neighborhoods. The Town will continue to promote duplex construction and conversion, and support funding sources that incentivize their creation as affordable units.

Scattered Rehabilitation

South County Community Action Agency helps income eligible Washington County residents address basic housing code issues through programs such as weatherization and emergency boiler repair or

replacement. Funding is available to both owner occupied units as well as rental properties with homeowner permission. The Town supports South County Community Action with CDBG funds it receives.

Challenges

While many of the tools of the 2005 Plan were implemented and have resulted in an increase in workforce housing in the community, economic conditions since 2005 have severely limited opportunities to further increase the number of affordable homes in South Kingstown. It is expected that, with an improving economy and the various planning efforts and regulatory tools that the Town has adopted, additional production will result toward achieving the 10% goal. It is important to note that the production of subsidized workforce housing typically requires a variety of resources from various sources to be successful. Recent years have witnessed a diminution of resources from the federal and state government; this trend must be acknowledged insofar as it will make the production of affordable units on the local level more difficult. More than ever before, the production of workforce housing in South Kingstown will benefit from multi-layered collaborations between local government, non-profit housing agencies, state officials, and private developers. These collaborations will occur on the development front with new housing units and the restoration of older buildings, and will also occur on the policy front with continued discussions on how to better account for the use of accessory dwelling units and Section 8 voucher rentals in the local affordable housing inventory. It is also important to acknowledge the Town of South Kingstown's commitment to 'truly integrate' affordable housing throughout the community, not solely based on hard numbers (achieving the 10% goal), but also in consideration of blending development with carrying capacity (efficient use of land, existing infrastructure, municipal services) and quality of life.

Reaching the 10% Goal

As part of the 2005 Housing Production Plan, the Town of South Kingstown developed an estimate of where affordable housing would be developed in the community and the number of units that would be associated with different techniques. Town was initially very specific in looking at these different strategies, identifying streets and individual sites that could accommodate housing. Since that time, the Town has learned that the level of detail associated with that approach was not very helpful toward achieving their objectives and, in some cases, provided a misleading picture of what the Town would pursue as property ownership, market opportunities, funding streams, and other conditions changed. As such, the Town has revised its approach to identifying the location and intensity of housing to better suit evolving conditions and to better suit the "smart growth" framework provided by Statewide Planning's *Land Use 2025*.

Map 3.1 Housing Element illustrates the geographic planning framework that will serve as one of the organizing principles for South Kingstown in its efforts to provide housing for a diverse population. As indicated by the map, the location of the local sewer service area is generally consistent with the state's Urban Services Boundary. Both of these areas illustrate a preference for concentrating future development and redevelopment toward the four villages best equipped to handle growth in South Kingstown: Wakefield, Peace Dale, Kingston, and West Kingston. Each of these villages is truly unique with regard to the opportunities and constraints associated with future development and the community will carefully assess future opportunities against the individual conditions within each village. In general, however, following the "Village Model" of modest urbanization that has made South Kingstown so successful, these four villages will be the focus for meeting the housing needs of the community.

In examining the strategies to produce affordable housing, South Kingstown will rely primarily on the techniques listed in Table 3 to meet/exceed the 10% statutory threshold. This table also provides the general distribution of housing within the village areas targeted as part of efforts to be consistent with local and state land use planning. As noted above the current 10% goal for affordable housing in South Kingstown is 1090 units based upon the 2010 census baseline. For calendar 2012 the Town inventory of L/M housing was 588 units or 5.39% (per RI Housing, see Table 1). This represents a shortfall of 502 affordable units under current conditions.

To project affordable housing need for the 2030 timeframe of this plan, new housing units to accommodate expected population growth needed to be calculated. The following methodology was used. Technical Paper 162 (Statewide Planning Program; April 2013) contains projected population for South Kingstown which we have used to project housing for this timeframe. First, the 2010 population count was adjusted to subtract the number of students residing on the URI campus: 30,637 – 5,281 = 25,356. The same process was used for the 2030 population: 35,556 (est.) - 5,281 (assumed at 2010 levels). The resulting off-campus resident population is estimated at 30,275 persons which represents an increase of 4,919 between 2010 and 2030. Based upon an average household population of 2.43 persons per unit, (2010 Census) an additional 2,024 housing units would be required to accommodate this population increase. This translates to a year round housing base for 2030 of 12,924 units (10,900 [2010] + 2024 = 12,924). Ten percent of this figure is 1,292 affordable units for South Kingstown as the targeted standard. As such, and considering our existing affordable inventory, this requires 704 new affordable units to meet the State's 10% threshold goal.

Table 4 below outlines a projected timeline out to 2030 and distribution, by unit type, as to how this target may be approached by that date based upon the techniques and tools currently available to the Town. This table also provides the general distribution of housing within the village areas targeted as part of efforts to be consistent with local and state land use planning goals and policies. It is also noted that new tools and programs may come into being over the pendency of this plan; these may provide opportunities to produce additional affordable housing within the community. This plan acknowledges this potential and the Town would endeavor to take advantage of new methods, programs and resources to boost our affordable housing inventory as they are established or become available.

Table 3. Potential Location Summary Chart

Approach	Affordable Units
Inclusionary Zoning through Single Family and Multi-Family*	
Peace Dale	24
Wakefield	26
Kingston	17
West Kingston	17
Rural Areas	205
Subtotal	**289**
Accessory Dwelling Units	**36**
Scattered Rehabilitation and Comprehensive Permits for Affordable Housing	
Peace Dale	87

Wakefield	91
Kingston	49
West Kingston	49
Rural Areas	103
Subtotal	**379**
Total Affordable Units	**704**

Source: Town of South Kingstown

**Affordable Units for Inclusionary Zoning are distributed across village areas based on assumed capacity and municipal policies on growth within these areas.*

The Town anticipates that the projected 704 affordable units will be developed incrementally over the next 20 years. Unit production is broken out into five-year increments in Table 4. This table also indicates the units projected to be completed by 2010 in the 2005 plan. It should be noted that the milestone was not met, and the reasons are detailed in the Town's review of its affordable housing strategy. These units are redistributed based on those that are recently approved and the anticipated level of interest seen in each strategy over the past five years. Those identified as being completed by 2015 include units outlined in Table 2.

Table 4. Projected Affordable Housing Production through 2030[1]

Strategy	Projected by 2010	Actual by 2010	2010-2015	2015-2020	2020-2025	2025-2030	Total Units
Inclusionary Zoning	112	0	30	87	87	85	289
Duplexes in Core Area	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Accessory Dwelling Units	15	0	3	8	10	15	36
Scattered Rehabilitation	12	0	8	9	10	10	37
Comprehensive Permits	150	88	79	85	93	85	342
Projected Total Units	**301**	**88**	**120**	**189**	**200**	**195**	**704**

Housing Vision

The Town of South Kingstown will develop methods to establish a range of housing options for its diverse population, both as families and as housing for singles. The Town will strive to retain the diversity of its residents through carrying forward recommendations found within the Affordable Housing Production Plan into the updated Comprehensive Plan. Town programs and regulatory efforts will seek to provide appropriate housing opportunities in the community with a focus on infill development and redevelopment in the village areas. Current and prospective residents will find a range of housing types available including: single-family homes in conservation/open space developments; traditional village-oriented housing and subdivisions; attractive multi-family housing; apartments above commercial uses; and housing for seniors and for persons with disabilities.

[1] Figures in columns 1 and 2 (Projected by 2010 and Actual by 2010) are not shown in the total units column at the right of the Table. These projections (column 1 only) compared to actual production, are taken from the Affordable Housing Production Plan/Housing Element in the 2005 version of the Town's Comprehensive Community Plan.

Housing Action Plan

To keep South Kingstown a community that is home to a vital mix of people by maintaining a wide range of housing options.

Goal 1: Promote and enhance the valued sense of place and community represented in South Kingstown's existing housing stock and traditional village development patterns.

Policy 1.1 - Raise awareness of housing needs throughout the community.

Implementation

- The Town shall conduct public forums/working meetings that address local housing needs.
- The Town shall maintain an updated database of housing and household trends, and housing needs within the Town.
- The Town shall ensure that other sections of the South Kingstown Comprehensive Plan and future neighborhood/village studies support sustainable and appropriately scaled housing initiatives.

Policy 1.2 - The Town discourages future residential growth which contributes to monotonous suburban-style subdivisions and encourages a high quality of design in the creation of new neighborhoods. The process of growth must be directed towards the creation of communities and directed away from urban sprawl.

Implementation

- The Town will update the "South Kingstown Residential Design Manual" and the regulations for Flexible Design Residential Projects to improve standards for flexible frontage, landscaping and transportation improvements.
- The Town will encourage the integration of green building design standards and sustainable development practices within development and redevelopment projects.
- The Town will encourage subdivision design and redevelopment projects that support active healthy lifestyles through providing pedestrian-oriented environments, connectivity to nearby recreation resources, bicycle amenities, access to public transit, and home-based food production when appropriate.

Policy 1.3 - Utilize policies and regulatory tools to support and maintain quality housing opportunities and sustainable residential development that is accessible by all populations, ages, abilities, and modes of transportation.

Implementation

- The Town shall maintain the Growth Management Program consistent with the principles of sustainable development.
- The Town shall maintain the Fair Share Development Fee Program to offset the impacts of new development on municipal services and facilities.

- The Town shall consider developing context sensitive design guidelines for 'tear-downs' and reconstruction to assure new residential construction reflects and is compatible with the existing neighborhood context.
- The Town shall consider designation of a local historic district to include the Matunuck summer colony (and adjacent camp communities) to better manage and preserve these unique housing developments important to the Town's sense of place.
- The Town shall monitor and address changing demographic trends (e.g., reduction in household size, rental needs for family housing, etc.) through amendments to policies and regulatory tools, as necessary.
- The Town shall promote 'green' housing development/redevelopment throughout the community utilizing Low Impact Design (LID) techniques, energy conservation/efficiency, and the use of innovative building technologies.
- The Town shall continue to support the mix of residential uses into mixed use districts where appropriate in order to provide more sustainable housing choices and to support retail business.
- The Town shall continue the development of a Cottage Housing Ordinance using the language provided in the "*South Kingstown Village Study, Villages of Wakefield and Peace Dale"* as a starting point.

Policy 1.4 - Improve and maintain the Town's existing housing stock.

Implementation

- The Town shall continue to improve and maintain the existing housing stock through the enforcement of the State Building Code and Property Maintenance Code (minimum housing standards).
- The Town (South Kingstown Rehabilitation Program funded through the Community Development Block Grant program) shall continue to assist eligible homeowners with home repairs (e.g., update of electrical, plumbing, and heating systems).
- The Town shall consider expanding the South Kingstown Rehabilitation Program to incorporate additional programs (e.g., Lead Based Paint Abatement, Property Maintenance, and Energy Conservation Programs).

Policy 1.5 - Continue to promote the preservation and rehabilitation of South Kingstown's older and historic housing stock.

Implementation

- The Town shall pursue development of a low-interest rehabilitation loan program for housing improvement assistance.
- The Town shall identify a source of information and training to educate town residents and property owners on appropriate techniques for residential property maintenance, rehabilitation, historic preservation, and energy and water conservation (Preserve RI, Grow Smart and RIHPHC).
- The Town shall pursue establishing financial incentives to owners of historic property to encourage preservation and restoration of historic houses.

Goal 2: Facilitate the development of affordable housing throughout the community in a manner that is reflective of South Kingstown resident's physical, social, and financial limitations and resources with the goal of achieving the state mandated 10% affordable housing stock.

Policy 2.1 - Identify opportunities to integrate affordable housing into existing neighborhoods.

Implementation

- The Town shall define, support and incorporate the concept of 'work force' housing into the more general category of 'affordable' housing.
- The Town shall consider opportunities to incorporate affordable housing as an accessory, supporting feature in the adaptive reuse of underutilized mill complexes in the community, once the feasibility of commercial and/or industrial uses have been investigated. Such inclusion must be sited, scaled and designed to complement the historic industrial legacy of these complexes and not overwhelm the potential for economic development these complexes represent.
- The Town shall consider village infill areas when siting affordable housing to capitalize on existing infrastructure and facilities and create walkable, healthy communities .
- The Town shall identify opportunities where public improvements (e.g., streetscape improvements and/or publicly funded project improvements to signage, entryways, pedestrian connectivity, and façades) can aid in the integration of affordable housing developments.
- The Town shall continue to promote the positive aspects of affordable housing development proposals as they are approved and constructed.

Policy 2.2 - Develop a range of affordable rental opportunities throughout the Town of South Kingstown.

Implementation

- The Town shall use available state and federal resources, including but not limited to Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) to create and/or rehabilitate affordable family rental housing in South Kingstown.
- The Town shall utilize Federal and State Historic Tax Credits or other resources that may be available to create and/or rehabilitate affordable housing opportunities in designated Historic Districts.
- The Town shall continue to ensure the safety and sanitary condition of all subsidized affordable housing units through regular inspections conducted by the Building Official, prior to resident move-in.
- The Town shall investigate a housing rehabilitation grants and loans program (through CDBG funds) to low and moderate-income residents and other programs designed to promote both the quality and quantity of affordable housing and preservation of existing housing stock.
- The Town shall continue to support state initiatives such as the 'Neighborhood Opportunities Program' to increase resources available to support the affordable housing rental opportunities.

Policy 2.3 - Develop a range of affordable home ownership opportunities throughout the Town of South Kingstown.

Implementation

- The Town shall outreach to local financial institutions to improve public awareness of and access to opportunities and programs that will reduce the cost burden of housing (e.g., first time home buyers, down payment assistance, closing costs, etc.).
- The Town shall look for opportunities to expand starter home opportunities (e.g., RI Housing reduced rate mortgage programs and Targeted Assistance Program).
- The Town shall utilize Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds to create a program that provides down payments and closing cost assistance for affordable housing buyers.
- The Town shall continue to support non-profit organizations in developing affordable home ownership units and support new local or regional non-profits.
- The Town shall work with the South Kingstown Housing Authority (SKHA) to develop affordable homeownership opportunities through the Section 8 Program.
- The Town will support and encourage state regulatory amendments that will permit locally resident Section 8 certificates managed by the SKHA to be counted toward the "official" inventory of affordable housing in the community.

Policy 2.4 - Develop affordable housing opportunities for the homeless and residents with special needs.

Implementation

- The Town shall identify funding opportunities for the development of emergency, transitional, and permanent housing for homeless persons.
- The Town shall look to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section 811 Program to fund the development of affordable housing for South Kingstown's disabled and special needs population.

Policy 2.5 - Develop affordable housing opportunities for elderly persons.

Implementation

- The Town shall actively engage the South Kingstown Housing Authority (SKHA) and other non-profit organizations to utilize Federal 202 funds and USDA funds to create additional elderly housing units.
- The Town shall consider the development of congregate care housing (continuum of care) facilities for elderly persons.
- The Town shall research tax incentives to encourage public and private sector owners to rehabilitate units for elderly occupancy.

Goal 3: Encourage a wide range of affordable housing options through a combination of innovative regulatory mechanisms, public and private initiatives, and joint public and private partnerships.

Policy 3.1 - Maintain municipal programs and resources that support affordable housing opportunities.

Implementation

- The Town shall implement recommendations carried forward into this plan, from the 2005 Affordable Housing Production Plan, and review progress annually.
- The Town shall continue to support the use of the Affordable Housing Fund.
- The Town shall continue to work strategically with the South Kingstown Affordable Housing Collaborative to support the implementation of affordable housing policies and recommendations, as well as in educating the public on affordable housing diversity issues.
- The Town shall, on an ongoing basis, review the potential to develop affordable units on town-owned land where such development represents the best use of the land.
- The Town shall seek donations of land for affordable housing development.
- The Town shall consider the acquisition of available land for affordable housing development, where appropriate.
- The Town shall evaluate potential means to provide a steady source of income for its Housing Fund.
- The Town will actively support the continuation and expansion of existing federal and state programs that provide resources for the production of affordable housing.
- The Town will maintain its tax assessment policy for affordable units (reflective of unit acquisition cost, not market value).

Policy 3.2 - Form partnerships that will provide greater opportunities for affordable housing.

Implementation

- The Town shall look to create a coalition on non-profit developers to develop affordable housing in South Kingstown.
- The Town shall encourage partnerships between for profit and non-profit developers. (e.g., Affordable Housing Subdivision Demonstration Project)
- The Town shall actively engage non-profit housing developers and local/regional community development corporations (e.g., South County Habitat for Humanity) to better understand their siting needs/criteria.
- The Town shall support the efforts of the South Kingstown Housing Authority (SKHA) in the redevelopment/reconfiguration of existing SKHA properties (e.g., Champagne Heights and Fournier Estates).
- The Town shall partner with the University of Rhode Island to address shared housing challenges.
- The Town shall coordinate with the Washington County Regional Planning Council (WCRPC) regarding regional housing issues and/or opportunities.

Policy 3.3 - Continue the use of regulatory techniques that support and increase affordable housing opportunities.

Implementation

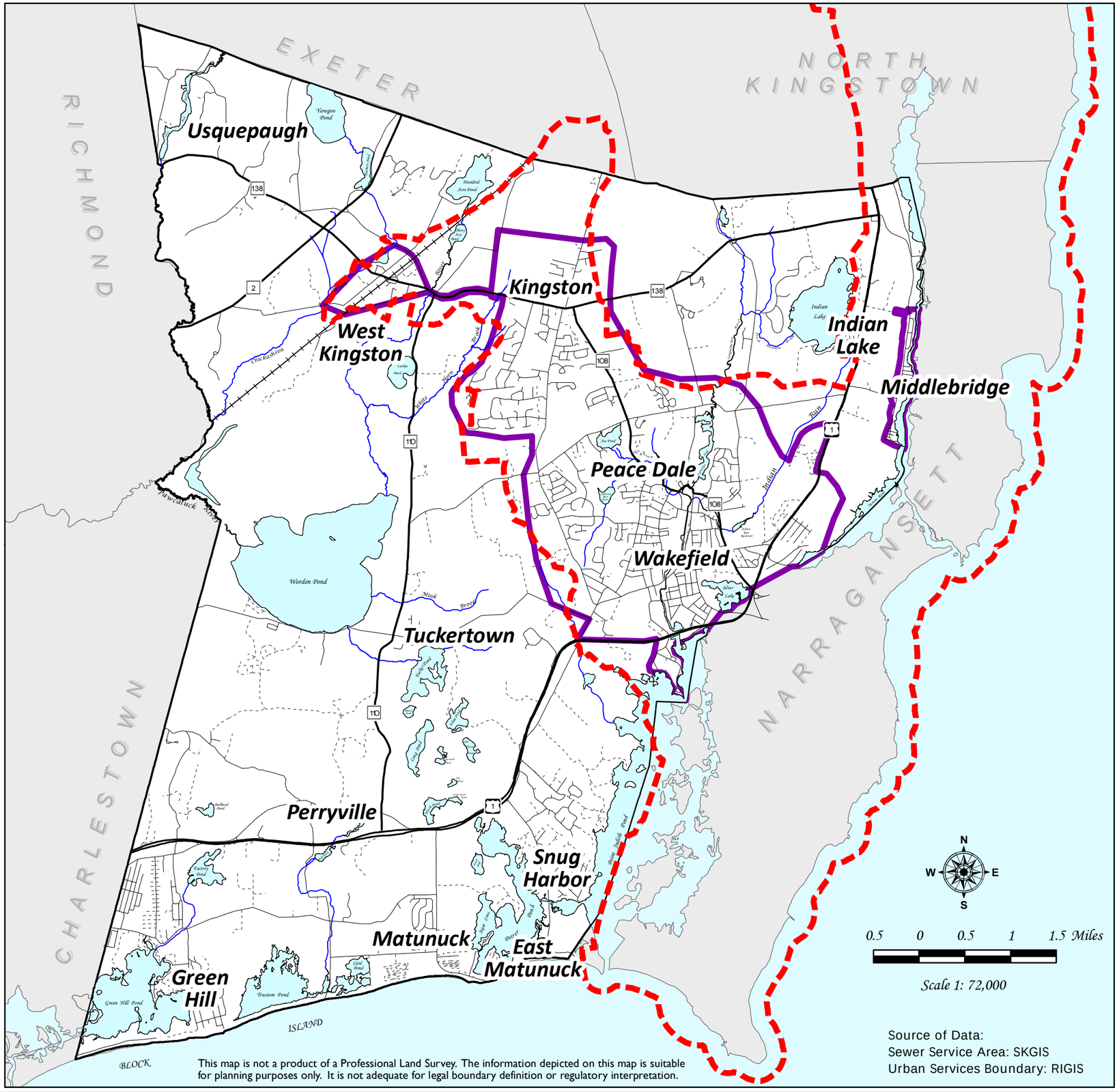
- The Town shall continue to review and, where appropriate, revise the mandatory Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance.
- The Town shall continue the use of the Impact Fee Ordinance to only permit waivers when the long-term affordability restriction is for a minimum of 30 years.

- The Town will continue to waive Phasing and Pacing regulations for developers of affordable housing where appropriate.
- The Town will monitor 'fee in lieu' requirements for housing developments where required affordable housing units cannot be established on the development site.
- The Town shall actively negotiate Comprehensive Permit density increases with housing developers, looking to maximize the percentage of affordability in proposals that look to increase density beyond what is allowed through local regulations.
- The Town shall monitor the growing trend of age and family-restricted affordable housing development proposals, in comparison to the family unit needs identified in the Introduction to the Comprehensive Plan.

Town of South Kingstown

Comprehensive Plan

Housing Element



Urban Services Boundary

Future Sewer Service Area

State / Federal Highway

Local Roads

Private Roads

Railroad

Lakes and Ponds

Streams

N
W E
S

0.5 0 0.5 1 1.5 Miles

Scale 1: 72,000

Source of Data:
Sewer Service Area: SKGIS
Urban Services Boundary: RIGIS

This map is not a product of a Professional Land Survey. The information depicted on this map is suitable for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition or regulatory interpretation.

Map 3.1

Geographic Information System

PL14-11 cpb 1/14

Economic Development

Economic Development Element

Introduction

South Kingstown is recognized as a predominantly residential community with a limited commercial and industrial base. Although the number of jobs in town nearly equals the number of residents in the work force, most residents commute to jobs outside South Kingstown and significant numbers of employees commute in to town daily. Major employers include the University of Rhode Island (URI), Schneider Electric (formerly American Power Conversion), South County Hospital, and the Town of South Kingstown. Historically, the residential construction sector was a strong component of the local economy supporting a broad range of associated businesses. With the recent recession and housing crisis, this sector of the economy has been, and will undoubtedly continue to be slow for some time. Tourism opportunities continue to play a critical role in the local economy drawing people who want to enjoy recreation opportunities at local beaches, harbors, salt ponds, and bike paths.

Businesses within the Village of Peace Dale

Like many traditional New England communities, South Kingstown's local economy is shaped by the community character and quality of life that define the Town. Businesses emerge and thrive in the villages of South Kingstown to provide essential services to the community and to take advantage of the amenities that draw tourists and pedestrian activity to the area. Large mill structures provide unique opportunities to bolster the local tax base and require a sophisticated planning and regulatory framework to be successful. As the current economic recession continues to put an enormous strain on all of Rhode Island, South Kingstown will continue to build upon its strengths to maintain its viable local economy. Direct engagement of its major employers and support of mill redevelopment represent examples of strategies that directly address individual economic objectives. Equally important, however, are the broader strategies that indirectly support the economy, acknowledging that successful economic development is tied to sound environmental, housing and transportation policies.

Economic Development Achievements

The Town of South Kingstown has continued its efforts to meet the goals established in the 1992 Comprehensive Plan and subsequent 2005 Update. Successful and developing initiatives include:

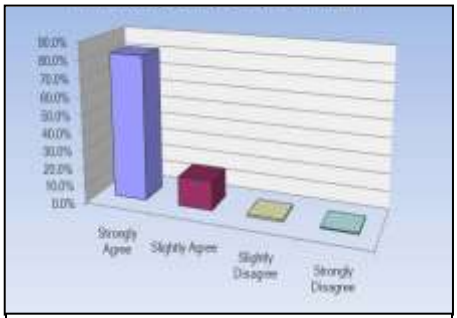
- Crosswalks were replaced in the Villages of Wakefield and Peace Dale to increase access to local businesses for pedestrians and improve safety.
- The William C. O'Neill Bicycle Path was extended in the community, expanding access for local business and building on the already successful tourist economy. Phase III of the bike path has been completed and now provides a connection to neighboring Narragansett.
- The Town has recently developed draft Zoning Ordinance language within the "South Kingstown Village Study, Villages of Wakefield and Peace Dale" to help address many economic development issues both directly and indirectly. Issues that are being considered in these villages and town-wide include:

  - Cottage Zoning to promote housing and workforce diversity;
  - Expanding and refining allowances in industrial districts;
  - Effectively transitioning between business centers and residential districts; and
  - Design guidelines that will clarify permitting requirements and streamline review processes.
- The Town allocated grant funding under the CDBG program to help support a façade improvement program for businesses in the Village of Peace Dale.
- The viability of the West Kingston industrial area has been supported by the provision of sewers and recent reconstruction of portions of Liberty Lane and Fairgrounds Road. These infrastructure improvements have helped promote the continued industrial and wholesale activities in the area while protecting groundwater and other environmental resources.
- The Town successfully procured grant money from Rhode Island's Office of Statewide Planning to develop Village Plans for West Kingston and Matunuck. These plans will, among other things, address economic and transit initiatives in West Kingston and support tourism opportunities in Matunuck.
- Municipal staff members have developed a stronger line of communication with URI and will continue to discuss issues related to a potential research and technology park as well as transit improvements in the Village of Kingston.
- South County Commons has emerged as a significant mixed use hub in the region and provides opportunities for retail, office and service industry jobs.
- The Town has supported marine uses in Snug Harbor (expansion of Commercial Waterfront zoning district); supported expansion of aquaculture in the coastal ponds with zoning amendments, and created a special management district, the Public Marina Special Management District (PMSMD) to provide a better regulatory environment for managing the public waterfront uses at Marina Park on Point Judith Pond.
- Adopted a "tax treaty" ordinance in January of 2007, ordinance entitled: "Property Tax Exemption or Stabilization of Tax on Qualified Property Used for Manufacturing or Commercial Purposes".
- Town has provided support to the successful local seasonal farmers' markets (at East Farm and Marina Park) and the Winter Farmers' Market at the Peace Dale Mill.

Survey Findings

The South Kingstown Community Survey conducted in 2010 included the following findings regarding Economic Development:

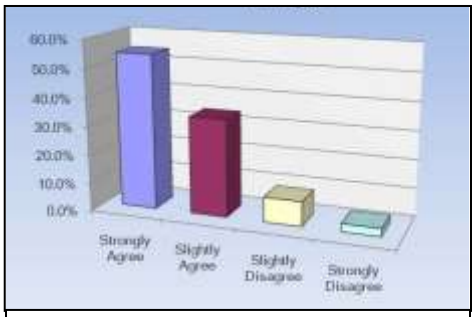
- The survey indicates overwhelming support for attracting and maintaining tenants within its existing industrial zoned properties. Over 80 percent strongly agreed with this concept while another 17 percent slightly agreed.
- The survey also indicated very strong support for promoting the agricultural economy with elements such as active farming, agricultural tourism, and farmers' markets. Over 80 percent of respondents felt strongly about supporting these activities while nearly 20 percent slightly agreed.
- There was general support for expanding the Town's existing industrial and commercial zoned districts while



The Town should try to attract and maintain tenants within its existing industrial zoned properties, particularly its mill complexes.

being considerate of nearby residential districts. Approximately 67 percent of respondents agreed with the expansion of these zones. The survey also identified a grouping who disagreed with this idea (approximately 33 percent).

- The majority of residents in South Kingstown believe the Town should encourage the tourism industry to add to the economy and create jobs. Over 50 percent of residents strongly agree with this sentiment while an additional 30 percent slightly agree.
- Most of the residents in South Kingstown are supportive of a long-term investment in economic development through municipal programs. Approximately 83 percent of residents agreed with this sentiment.



The Town should encourage the tourism industry to add to the economy and create jobs.

Visioning Process

The visioning process for the Comprehensive Plan Update occurred through a series of information gathering techniques including:

- Two public workshops focused on comprehensive planning issues held on April 6, 2010 and May 24, 2011;
- Informational interviews with key community members and board members;
- Multiple public outreach and engagement events occurring throughout the concurrent Healthy Places by Design grant process;
- The use of Planning Board work sessions to discuss and refine Comprehensive Plan concepts; and
- The use of a project website to provide updates and draft materials to the community.

The following section summarizes the concepts and ideas that emerged from the visioning process regarding Economic Development. These ideas were organized into the following groups: Building on the Village-Scale Business Model, Maintaining South Kingstown as a Tourist Destination, Supporting Housing Diversity to Develop a Local Workforce, Protecting Community Character to Attract New Business, and Providing a Clear Regulatory Path for Business Investment.

<u>Building on the Village-Scale Business Model</u>

- Focus infrastructure expansions and investments within villages to maintain them as cohesive and coordinated areas for business activity.
- Provide guidance to developers by promoting good examples of new development within the village areas to build support for infill growth at appropriate scales and with quality design.
- Continue to support the Town's community-based organizations focused on the economic development and general improvement of the villages.
- Identify state and federal funding sources for village improvements and revitalization projects and support community-based organizations in securing funding.
- Establish communication networks between like-minded village/neighborhood organizations for the benefit of sharing ideas, experiences, and resources.
- Continue to support major improvements in the Village of Peace Dale particularly regarding the reuse of mills and addressing the existing Housing Authority sites.

- Recognize the evolving role of the Village of West Kingston due to the possible future establishment of commuter rail service within the village.
- Utilize the Town's website and other means to inform and educate residents about the Town's Growth Management Program and existing limitations in zoning that will prevent many of the sprawling excesses of development that have adversely affected other RI communities (e.g., size limits on commercial construction that will prevent big box retail uses).
- Promote small-scale commercial spaces to support "mom and pop" businesses and embrace our village atmosphere.
- Encourage infill, mixed-use development for Wakefield and Peace Dale, where appropriate and at appropriate levels.

Maintaining South Kingstown as a Tourist Destination

- Recognize the unique strength of South Kingstown's tourism economy related to the ocean front beaches, rivers, salt and freshwater ponds, and other natural resources.
- Continue to protect South Kingstown's valuable historic buildings and structures to support the tourism economy.
- Seek to capitalize on the local tourism economy by providing adequate commercial opportunities to attract tourist revenue.
- Continue to support opportunities for agricultural tourism (promotion of farm stands, agricultural tourism, farmers' markets, etc.) as an important draw to the area.
- Promote the indoor winter farmers' market in Peace Dale as a successful example of providing economic viability for local food production.
- Continue to support the growth of the arts identity within the Villages of Wakefield and Peace Dale.
- Promote collaborations between local farm operators and area restaurants/food retailers through organizations such as Farm Fresh Rhode Island and the Rhody Fresh initiative.

View of the Saugatucket River Walkway, Saugatucket River Falls (and fish ladder)

Supporting Housing Diversity to Develop a Local Workforce

- Offer a diverse array of housing options, where appropriate, including small scale "cottage" housing, multi-family housing, and affordable housing.
- A diverse housing stock plays an important role in maintaining a strong, vibrant and sustainable local economy.
- Improve communication and raise public awareness concerning affordable and "workforce" housing in South Kingstown.
- Promote the use of the inclusionary zoning model as the regulatory process of preference of for-profit developers. This model is seen as providing affordable housing opportunities for the community while maintaining appropriate densities and quality of the finished development.
- Continue to add affordable housing units within the existing village centers through appropriately scaled developments that maintain a vital mix of housing goals- whether subsidized or non-subsidized.

- Ensure that affordable housing developments are available to all ages and family types.
- Promote the positive aspects of affordable housing projects as they are approved and constructed for the purpose of public education and awareness.
- Explore creative means to establish a small but consistent revenue stream for use by Affordable Housing Fund.
- Explore partnerships with non-profit educational groups to provide training and skill enhancement opportunities to the local workforce.
- Explore the potential for adopting form-based codes or design standards in appropriate areas to support pedestrian-oriented building design and the integration of a mix of uses.
- Consider Subdivision and Land Development Regulations amendments to strengthen the application of building design standards in village areas that support pedestrian, bicycle and transit activity.

Protecting Community Character to Attract New Business

- Ensure proper management of registered scenic roadways and businesses located within and around these areas.
- Revise the Commercial Neighborhood District to make its standards consistent with the intent of the District. The CN District should be welcoming and sensitive to the context of the surrounding neighborhood and overall community character.
- Prioritize the preservation of working farms and scenic areas within town planning documents and continue to find ways to support businesses that support this rural community character.
- Identify where the Historic District Commission may be able to strengthen and/or expand its role relative to reviewing new development or redevelopment projects beyond the Historic Zoning District.
- Establish more sophisticated standards regarding the aesthetic features of development within the Commercial Highway, Commercial Downtown, and Commercial Neighborhood Districts such as architecture, signage, and appropriate landscaping.
- Promote the Interactive Map of Recreational Facilities offered on the Town website as a way to increase awareness of recreational opportunities as a tourist destination.

Providing a Clear Regulatory Path for Business Investment

- Continue to revise and develop regulations to ensure they are clear and easy to interpret by local boards and applicants.
- Promote the Town's tax incentive program/ordinance through communication and education to the business community.
- Explore the development of a Commercial Development Design Manual to illustrate and clarify preferred design standards for commercial development.
- Develop and implement specific standards for transportation design to address items like traffic calming.
- Revise the Kingstown Road Special Management District (KRSMD) to encourage and promote quality redevelopment and investment in this area.
- Consider, and implement as appropriate, the concepts and recommendations of the URI Landscape Architecture Studio (Fall of 2008) from the project entitled: Route 108 Corridor Study, Peace Dale to Kingston.

Economic Development Vision

The Town of South Kingstown will continue to value and support its business community as a source of jobs and as a means to provide the goods and services required by residents and tourists alike. The Town will continue to support shops and offices located in walkable village settings. These small businesses, many of which are locally owned, help reinforce the "small town" character of South Kingstown. The charm of the seaside villages of the community will be preserved while attracting development to create appropriately scaled tourism opportunities. The Town will support current businesses and properly sized expansion of commercial and light industrial development, while protecting the quality of the Town's finite natural and cultural resources. This may relieve the current tax burden on residential land use while providing additional tax revenue for municipal services. Future commercial and industrial development must not overwhelm the unique character of the community. Future development should take advantage of multi-modal transportation opportunities at Kingston Station while providing diverse job opportunities for local residents. Opportunities for mill reuse and infill of commercial development through expansion of existing shops and stores (investment in place), construction of new, or renovation of existing out-of-date or inadequate structures, can foster sustainability of the central core while protecting outlying "greenfields" from development pressure. Economic development initiatives intended to improve the economic quality of life for town residents must also protect our natural and cultural resources.

Economic Development Action Plan:

To follow a path of balanced economic growth having the following attributes: a) protection of sensitive environmental areas; b) provision of economic opportunities; c), protection of the public health, safety and welfare; d) high quality of design in commercial development; and e) stabilization of an affordable municipal tax rate.

Goal 1: To foster a local economy that provides opportunities for a diverse collection of business and industry.

Policy 1.1 - The Town shall continue to pursue partnerships and collaborations that will provide technical expertise and resources toward a focused economic development program.

Implementation

- Town Boards, Committees and staff will work together to develop a stronger economic development plan that focuses on light industry, research/development and commercial offices.
- The Town shall identify specific initiatives for which URI can serve as a resource and engage the University in an effort to implement these initiatives.
- Municipal staff and boards shall continue to work with the South Kingstown Economic Development Committee to develop strategic initiatives and perform research that is valuable to the Town's economic development efforts.
- The Town will work to improve communication with and provide supportive services to the local business community and institutions (South Kingstown Chamber of Commerce, URI and South County Hospital in particular).
- The Town shall work with local "grassroots" community-based organizations to promote economic development opportunities that support a sustainable village planning model.

- The Town shall seek to improve and coordinate communications with the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation to identify and develop programs and initiatives that will be useful to the local business community at a variety of scales.
- The Town shall focus supportive efforts toward the local business community to reinforce existing investment and our traditional economy, employment opportunities and the provision of goods and services to our residents and visitors to the community.

Policy 1.2 - The Town encourages housing strategies that promote the establishment of a diverse workforce in the community.

Implementation

- The Town will encourage URI to support programs and projects that address the affordable housing needs of the University workforce.
- The Town shall actively pursue the policies and implementation items outlined in the Housing Element of this Comprehensive Plan.
- The Town will continue to support URI capital projects geared to house an increased percentage of students on the campus, recognizing that this effort will reduce strains on the local housing rental market and transportation system and also provide an enhanced business climate in Kingston Village.

Policy 1.3 - The Town supports the diverse contributions of URI to the local and regional economy, including research and development activities which may be related to engineering/robotics, bio-technology, plant and soil science, environmental resources, oceanography, coastal management and technology.

Implementation

- The Town shall work with URI to support research expansion and potential spin off of new businesses, utilizing the State of Rhode Island's incentives for research and development.
- The Town will work with URI to promote local mill complexes as potential business incubators for small business startups that evolve out of the University.
- The Town will explore the potential for the URI Cooperative Extension Service to provide programs, services, and resources that will enhance the skill and knowledge levels of the local workforce.
- The Town shall consider an agreement with URI to support a locally-based food system in South Kingstown through coordinating available resources and expertise.

Goal 2: To identify constraints to economic development that must be considered by local boards and commissions, the local business community and/or future investors.

Policy 2.1 - The Town recognizes the need to be able to understand and communicate the regulatory and programmatic elements of permitting of state and local regulatory agencies.

Implementation

- The Town shall actively engage and communicate with state agencies to stay current with regulations and programs that may affect development potential in the community.

Policy 2.2 - The Town recognizes the relationship between adequate infrastructure and economic development potential in the community.

Implementation

- The Town shall integrate any known limitations on its infrastructure into the local regulatory process by requiring impact analyses where appropriate.
- The Town will research and pursue funding to assess drainage problems that regularly occur during heavy rain events.
- The Town shall work with URI to continue and expand transportation opportunities for students and staff to access local commercial and service areas.
- The Town shall promote a well-connected pedestrian network to increase access to businesses in village areas, provide an equitable transportation system for all shoppers and workers, and support active modes of transportation.
- The Town will, through its annual Capital Improvement Program, consider infrastructure upgrades and enhancements that support the economic development needs of the local business community.
- The Town shall continue to actively engage with all state and regional transportation agencies to understand the impacts of future transit development in order to encourage a multi-modal approach to transportation throughout town as appropriate.
- The Town will continue to support the South Kingstown "Trolley Program" as a creative, alternative transit program that combines congestion mitigation, local economic development, and regional tourism promotion. The Town and "Trolley Program" providers will assess the feasibility of new routes for trolley service based on recommendations and outreach outcomes defined in "South Kingstown: Designing a Healthier Community."

Policy 2.3 – The Town recognizes the relationship between adequate services and economic development potential in the community.

Implementation

- The Town shall continue to actively engage with South County Hospital to ensure that local policies, infrastructure improvements and regulations do not hinder initiatives that are consistent with local and regional health care needs.
- The Town shall continue to actively support its safety services including the local fire districts and the municipal public safety function (Police Department and EMS).

Policy 2.4 – The Town supports balancing economic development with the need to protect natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources throughout the community.

Implementation

- The Town shall continue to compare the adequacy and ability of local and state infrastructure (roads, drainage systems, water, sewer, etc.) to support future economic development with build out analyses developed by the Town. Comparisons will include an assessment of development potential against the capacity of our public water supply and stormwater system.

- The Town shall inventory those local resources that may limit future development opportunities and make this information readily available to developers and property owners.
- The Town shall establish and support a network of volunteers whose work implements the plans and enhances the values the Town seeks to protect.

Goal 3: To actively support economic development within our existing villages that contributes to a high quality of life.

Policy 3.1 - The Town recognizes the diversity of its existing villages and the need to consider unique economic development initiatives for each one.

Implementation

- The Town shall continue to develop Village Plans to identify economic development opportunities that are suited to the unique context, constraints and opportunities presented in each setting.

Policy 3.2 - The Town encourages the revitalization of its Central Core Villages of Wakefield and Peace Dale, as well as adjacent commercial areas, such as the Route 108 corridor, Dale Carlia Corner, and the Old Tower Hill Road corridor.

Implementation

- The Town shall pursue and implement as appropriate the recommendations provided in its Village Plans, such as "South Kingstown Village Study: Villages of Wakefield and Peace Dale" and related planning documents such as "South Kingstown: Designing a Healthier Community."
- The Town shall conduct a vacant or underutilized parcel assessment to better understand infill and redevelopment opportunities in its Central Core Villages and adjacent commercial areas.
- The Town shall explore ordinance and regulatory amendments for its Central Core Villages and adjacent commercial areas to encourage innovative commercial design, such as adopting form-based codes, commercial design standards, or developing a commercial development design manual for appropriate areas to support pedestrian-oriented building design, the integration of a mix of uses, and the reuse of underutilized or vacant structures and parcels.
- The Town shall engage the community to define a vision for Old Tower Hill Road and Dale Carlia Corner. This effort will focus on strategies for increasing pedestrian access and improving building and site design aesthetics as well as opportunities for providing incentives for the redevelopment of commercial property and infrastructure improvements within the existing state right-of-way.

Policy 3.3 - The Town recognizes the importance of preparing for the future establishment of appropriately scaled commuter rail service to West Kingston through a targeted planning effort.

Implementation

- The Town shall engage the local community in the development of a Village Plan for West Kingston that integrates multi-modal transportation opportunities (including commuter rail

service) and provides a comprehensive assessment of infrastructure capacities, regulatory limitations and environmental constraints.

- The Town shall identify vacant or underutilized developable land within West Kingston and assess any constraints associated with those properties including the need for groundwater protection.
- The Town will support the URI's policy to promote access to the campus from the west through the Village of West Kingston and will work with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) regarding properly scaled infrastructure improvements that will support the village as a gateway to URI.

Policy 3.4 – The Town recognizes the redevelopment potential of the historic mill complexes in the community and policy efforts will focus on providing a regulatory environment that fosters appropriate reuse and economic opportunities.

Implementation

- The Town shall evaluate and implement, as appropriate, the recommendations of the "Palisades Mill Reuse Feasibility Study." It is noted that implementation of a mixed-use development concept for the mill complex will require modification of the zoning ordinance.
- The Town shall maintain an open dialogue with investors, property owners and the Peace Dale residents and business owners to support a viable redevelopment approach for both the Palisades and Peace Dale Mill complexes.

Goal 4: To provide the business community with a clear framework for maintaining, building, occupying and expanding operations in town.

Policy 4.1 - The Town recognizes that high quality, transparent local regulations are essential to accomplishing our economic development goals.

Implementation

- The Town shall maintain a current inventory of any commercial and industrial buildings or properties that are underutilized or vacant. This inventory should be available to potential developers or business interests.
- The Town will develop a policy initiative to actively promote the use of its 'Tax Treaty' program as a means to attract new business uses and expansion of existing businesses.
- The Town will actively and continually review the Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision and Land Development Regulations, and other supporting documents to identify any outdated or confusing language that requires revision.
- The Town will, on an ongoing basis, review local development ordinances, regulations and other supporting documents to ensure consistency with state and federal requirements.
- The Town will evaluate and consider amendments to the use code table in the South Kingstown Zoning Ordinance that will modernize existing language and provide increased flexibility and utility of the ordinance from an economic development perspective.
- The Town will review the feasibility of expansion of limited commercial (office and service type uses) zoning in the area Old Tower Hill Road corridor, (area between Old Tower Hill Road and Narragansett Avenue West).

Goal 5: To encourage a high quality of design in commercial development.

Policy 5.1 - The Town recognizes that high quality design and community character issues are an essential component of future development proposals in non-residential areas.

Implementation

- The Town shall encourage commercial development design that supports active modes of transportation such as walking, biking, and public transit.
- The Town will explore the formation of a commercial development design manual for commercial development in all areas of town. This manual may be used to develop design guidelines or standards for different districts or neighborhoods within the community to ensure a proper fit of commercial/industrial uses in the surrounding community and provide an efficient and effective permitting process.
- The Town shall revise the parking requirements in the Zoning Ordinance for commercial and industrial projects to avoid over-paving yet include appropriate parking ratios, to require buffering and landscaping of parking areas and to include provisions for street trees.
- The Town shall review and implement, as appropriate, the recommendations of the study entitled: "Revisions to the South Kingstown Zoning Ordinance to Promote New Urbanism and Traditional Downtown Development and Redevelopment".
- The Town shall ensure that clear standards for parking, setbacks, use and other essential Zoning Ordinance elements will be adopted to address the unique purpose of each commercial and industrial district.
- The Town will review regulatory standards that apply to transitional areas between commercial, industrial, and mixed-use zoning districts and adjoining residential neighborhoods and identify design and performance standards that will ensure compatibility between these uses across district lines.

Policy 5.2 - The Town encourages the clustering/village concept and scale for commercial development to prevent commercial strip design and support a healthy, walkable environment.

Implementation

- The Town shall amend the regulations for the Commercial Highway, Commercial Downtown, and Commercial Neighborhood Districts to address standards for building scale, architectural elements, pedestrian access and connectivity, signage, landscaping, and street trees.
- The Town shall amend the zoning ordinance to encourage the clustering/village concept and scale for commercial development to prevent commercial strip design
- The Town will review the zoning ordinance to better nurture and promote business orientation to and access from the William C. O'Neill Bicycle Path.
- The Town shall amend regulations to require the installation of attractive bicycle parking facilities for any commercial development requiring development plan review.

Goal 6: To identify and foster those business models that help to define South Kingstown's unique character and history.

Policy 6.1 - The Town supports the use of land for agricultural purposes including accessory uses and related operations and encourages a local healthy food system by providing opportunities for local farmers to sell their products locally.

Implementation

- The Town shall conduct an audit of existing policies and land use ordinances regarding agricultural activities for consistency with the Rhode Island Agricultural Partnership's Five Year Strategic Plan and recommendations from "South Kingstown: Designing a Healthier Community" to ensure the viability of farming activities and to support a local food system.
- The Town shall continue to inventory agricultural operations and work with farmers to maintain land in production where possible.
- The Town will continue its support of agricultural land preservation through open space and development rights acquisition in cooperation with the Partnership for Preservation, the State's Farm, Forest and Open Space Program (FFOS) and similar efforts.
- The Town will continue to support aquaculture operations in our coastal ponds in a manner that is balanced with environmental protection and at a scale consistent with Coastal Resource Management Council regulations.
- The Town shall inventory all existing healthy food resources throughout the community such as farmers' markets, community gardens, sites available for small-scale agriculture, community kitchens, food pantries, food-based business incubators, locally owned grocery stores, roadside stands, and compost facilities. This inventory shall be made available to the public to increase awareness of healthy food resources and promote linkages between local growers, processors, distributors, institutions (e.g., URI and South County Hospital) and other food stakeholders.
- The Town will assess the feasibility of using Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) as a regulatory tool for protecting agricultural lands.

Policy 6.2 - The Town supports the continued emergence of an "arts identity" in the community through arts-based industry and commerce.

Implementation

- The Town shall continue to review local codes to ensure that arts-based commerce, including light industry, and supporting uses are appropriately allowed in the community.
- The Town shall support the installation of public art, where appropriate, to enhance the character of streetscapes, neighborhoods and mixed use areas.
- The Town shall explore the possibility of providing financial incentives to artist operations such as "tax free" districts that allow artists to sell their wares without a sales tax.

Policy 6.3 - The Town supports the existing tourist economy both on a local and regional scale and will work to preserve and enhance those features of our community that attract tourists.

Implementation

- The Town shall continue to work with the State, adjacent municipalities, and various conservation groups to promote a comprehensive system of bikeways, walkways, linear parks, and related pedestrian infrastructure and amenities.

- The Town supports the protection of historic resources, landmarks, and scenic landscapes as an important component of the tourist economy.
- The Town shall continue to promote a regional approach to dealing with state agencies whose policies affect the scenic, cultural, natural, and recreational resources of South County.
- The Town shall encourage continued cooperation among South County communities and the South County Tourism Council to support, package and expand year-round tourism opportunities in the community.

Natural and Cultural Resources

Natural and Cultural Resources Element

Introduction

South Kingstown's natural and cultural resources provide the framework for life today in the community. The Town of South Kingstown is endowed with abundant natural resources including Block Island Sound beaches, salt ponds, estuaries and wetlands (see Map 5.1 and Appendix E for a detailed description of the inventory). These marine and estuarine resources benefit not only residents, but also attract tourists from throughout New England. These resources are augmented by freshwater marshes and open water in a series of ponds, including Worden's Pond, and rivers connecting upland resource areas with the tidal estuaries. See Map 5.2 of all Watersheds and Subwatersheds contained in the Town. The varied landscape provides critical habitat to more threatened and endangered species than any other Rhode Island community (see Map 5.3 Critical and Environmentally Sensitive Areas). Scenic forests, rural farmlands, historic villages, and unique summer communities complete a picture, weaving upland and wetland resources together. The Chipuxet aquifer (see Map 5.5 Groundwater Resources), a sole source aquifer, provides high quality groundwater to the four public water suppliers in town and provides the source for many of the private residential, agricultural, commercial and industrial wells in town. The Chipuxet aquifer also provides water to most of the Town of Narragansett. The protection of the Town's critical natural resources is a multi-jurisdictional process as the Town has continued an aggressive Open Space Acquisition Program, funded in part by municipal bonds, while the Rhode Island (RI) Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) continue their work to ensure that state permits are consistent with the Town's Comprehensive Community Plan.

The Saugatucket River

The Palisades Mill Complex, Village of Peace Dale

Cultural resources of South Kingstown (see Map 5.6 Cultural Resources and Appendix F for a detailed description of the inventory) mirror both the heritage of the Narragansett Indian Tribe and the historic settlement patterns of the colonists and later industrialization. Today, properties on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, stone mills, historic homes, stone walls, and a heritage of Narragansett (native American) place names help to define the cultural context of the Town. A local historic district and flexible design incentives to preserve historic buildings help strengthen and protect these finite resources. Agricultural and aquacultural activities also define an important component of South Kingstown's cultural landscape and the Town continues to take measures to protect and enhance these resources, see Map 5.4 Agricultural Resources).

Both the 2014 Plan Update and the 1992 Comprehensive Plan outline goals and policies for implementation to protect both natural and cultural resources. Despite these efforts, unmanaged development may negatively impact our natural and cultural resources, many of which are irreplaceable. Some of the primary threats to the Town's natural and cultural resources include:

- Potential degradation of groundwater supplies and potential draw down of the aquifer;
- Development adjacent to wetlands that has the potential to impair surface and groundwater quality;
- Loss of natural wildlife corridors for many indigenous species, including those federally protected and those recognized by the RI Natural Heritage Program;
- Insufficient protection of historic resources outside of the Historic Zoning Overlay; and
- Vulnerability of cultural landscapes to future development.

The Town is also in a position to take advantage of several opportunities to maintain and enhance its cultural and natural resources. Such opportunities include:

- Continuation of an Open Space Acquisition Program targeted on protecting the Town's most sensitive natural resources with a priority focus on protecting its groundwater supply;
- The ongoing development of new regulations to better address the protection of wetland resources;
- Educational opportunities to expand the capacity of town staff, board and commission members to address cultural and historic resources within the development review process; and
- Momentum for the promotion of sustainable development techniques with a specific focus on Low Impact Development (LID), infill development, wind energy development, and energy conservation.

Natural and Cultural Resources Achievements

The Town of South Kingstown has continued to meet the following goal established in the 1992 Comprehensive Plan:

> ***To preserve, to protect and to enhance the Town's natural resources, many of which are not renewable. To preserve, to protect, and to enhance the Town's historic and cultural resources and to integrate these into planning for the future.***

Major natural and cultural resources accomplishments include the following:

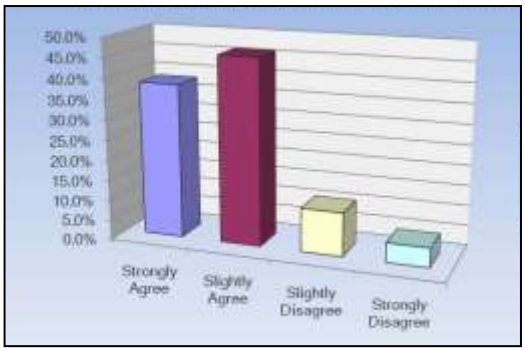
- The Town has extended sewers to industrially zoned areas of West Kingston to reduce the potential of contamination to the groundwater aquifer.
- The Town prepared the "South Kingstown Village Study: Villages of Wakefield and Peace Dale" and initiated implementation of items intended to protect and enhance the unique natural and cultural resources of these villages.
- The Town successfully partnered with GrowSmart Rhode Island to conduct workshops to provide Historic District Commission members with educational opportunities for enhancing their ability to review applicable projects.
- Staffing needs have been addressed regarding the inspection of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) to provide support for the identification, repair and replacement of failing systems.

- The South Kingstown Planning Board has developed initial drafts of local improved site development performance standards to further address wetland protection and stormwater control measures for review and discussion amongst town staff. These standards will be forwarded to the Town Council for their review and action.
- The Town's Open Space ongoing preservation program has provided a major tool to protect agricultural resources, unique habitats, forested areas and wetlands. As of July 1, 2010 the amount of protected open space in the community stood at 11,043 acres or 30.4% of the land area in town.
- In 2010 the Town adopted a "Floodplain Management Ordinance" (Chapter 21 of the Town Code) to regulate development within Special Flood Hazard Areas.
- The Town has updated its Natural Heritage Area inventory and maps based on revised RIDEM designations and new data from RI Geographic Information Systems (RIGIS).

Survey Findings

The South Kingstown Community Survey conducted in 2010 included the following findings regarding Natural and Cultural Resources:

- Respondents feel that "the Town has done a good job preserving the coastal and shoreline resources." In 2010 over 80 percent agreed with this statement (either strongly or slightly), a statistic comparable to 2003 survey results.
- Respondents overwhelmingly agree that the Town has done a good job of protecting the quality of drinking water. In 2010, 90 percent agreed (including 45 percent who strongly agreed), compared to 2003 when only 80 percent agreed with this statement and in 1993 when only 56 percent agreed.



The Town has done a good job of preserving coastal/ shoreline resources.

Visioning Process

The visioning process for the Comprehensive Plan Update occurred through a series of information gathering techniques including:

- Two public workshops focused on comprehensive planning issues held on April 6, 2010 and May 24, 2011;
- Informational interviews with key community members and board members;
- Multiple public outreach and engagement events occurring throughout the concurrent Healthy Places by Design grant process;
- The use of Planning Board work sessions to discuss and refine Comprehensive Plan concepts; and
- The use of a project website to provide updates and draft materials to the community.

The following text provides a summary of concepts and ideas that emerged from the visioning process regarding Natural and Cultural Resources. These ideas were organized into the following basic groups:

Protection of Environmental Resources, Maintenance of Cultural Landscapes, Identification and Promotion of Cultural Amenities, and Protection of Historic Buildings and Sites.

Protection of Environmental Resources

- Continue to formalize standards for resource protection, such as the Town Tree Ordinance, for greater clarity and enforcement by town staff and board and commission members.
- Continue to provide educational opportunities for town staff, board and commission members., and citizens regarding the importance of utilizing a watershed-based approach within conservation and resource protection planning.
- Improve coordination between the Town, DEM, and CRMC relative to OWTS and wetlands review. Specifically, explore ways to better solicit DEM/CRMC input at the Conceptual Master Plan review stage.
- Assess and clarify the role of the Conservation Commission in enforcing the policies and implementation measures contained within the Comprehensive Plan.
- Formalize and expand upon the Conservation Commission's involvement in development review process, particularly relating to projects that involve sensitive resources and critical stormwater/LID issues.
- Continue to increase the opportunity for the Conservation Commission to review and respond to pending environmental legislation.
- Continue to address staffing needs within the Town's OWTS inspections program.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the Groundwater Protection Overlay District through the assessment of specific projects by Planning Department Staff and the Conservation Commission.
- Continue to prioritize the protection of groundwater and surface water resources in town to maintain natural hydrologic functions and protect present and future drinking water supply.
- Continue to accurately quantify the Town's present and future water supply demands in order to develop a comprehensive management strategy to ensure an adequate water supply for South Kingstown and the State.
- Develop a metric for measuring impacts to drinking water resources within the process of individual development applications and approvals.
- Continue to update the Town's inventory of Natural Heritage Areas and integrate policies relative to the protection of biodiversity within town programs for natural resource and open space protection.
- Encourage green building techniques to protect sensitive environmental resources, such as: incorporating LID design practices within town policies and regulations; identifying specific buildings or sites for green building rehabilitation; and identifying sources of funding (state/federal) for the developers.
- Review the Zoning Ordinance, Wellhead Protection Plan and other town documents to determine if regulations relating to Underground Storage Tanks (UST) are being adequately addressed by the Town.

Maintenance of Cultural Landscapes

- Preserve South Kingstown's rural landscape as a cultural amenity (as defined by low density/ undeveloped landscapes and working farms).
- Continue to maintain scenic roadways throughout town as an important component of South Kingstown's cultural identity.

- Utilize new language in the Comprehensive Plan to make the protection of agricultural resources a priority.
- Target potential future agricultural acquisitions in town within the following areas:
    - East of Route 1 near South County Commons;
    - Route 138/Route 1 intersection;
    - Tuckertown Road corridor; and
    - Route 138 (existing agricultural use corridor along Mooresfield Road area, west of Route 1 to Broad Rock Road), consider seeking a Scenic Roadway designation from the State for this vicinity.
- Continue ongoing land preservation efforts with the Town's Open Space Partnership members.
- Encourage Best Management Practices for the aquaculture industry to maintain the Town's salt ponds and sustain this important, reemerging component of South Kingstown's identity.
- Encourage the development of recreational green spaces within walking distance of all homes in the community.
- Assess the existing underutilized open space resources to determine the potential for creating additional passive recreational opportunities.
- Continue to plan for villages as a critical piece to supporting South Kingstown's community character, economic welfare, and overall health – both for the citizens and the environment.

Identification and Promotion of Cultural Amenities

- Continue to focus on promoting arts-based initiatives in local planning efforts, particularly within the Villages of Wakefield and Peace Dale, to provide for a cultural amenity and social benefits.
- Explore funding opportunities including Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to improve and protect historic and culturally significant façades throughout town.
- Continue to provide the public with education opportunities regarding cultural resources.
- Embrace opportunities for promoting cultural amenities and events as a means to support a tourism based economy.
- Provide technical assistance to local cultural organizations to assist their missions to promote, protect, enhance and educate the community's varied cultural landscapes.
- Use Healthy Places by Design's Food Access and Availability Map to identify existing healthy food resources throughout the community and promote patronage by residents and also collaborations among the resources.
- Embrace opportunities to support agricultural activities within the community.

Protection of Historic Buildings and Sites

- Preserve Wakefield, Peace Dale, and Kingston as the Town's central hubs of historic buildings and cultural amenities.
- Focus historic preservation efforts on all appropriate buildings and sites as opposed to focusing only within historic districts. Special sites must be considered as a whole and in their neighborhood context (e.g., viewsheds).
- Provide a stronger policy and regulatory framework through revisions to the zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations to protect historic resources within the planning and development review process. Specific measures could include expanding the role of the Historic District Commission, creating an overlay district that references new historic inventories, and demolition delays.

- Continue to work with RI Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission to provide the South Kingstown Historic District Commission with educational opportunities regarding legal procedures and writing defensible motions of approval and denial.
- Continue to provide the public with educational opportunities regarding historic resources.
- Explore potential state or federal funding streams for conducting an update to the South Kingstown's historic resource inventory.
- Focus on adopting a regulatory framework that facilitates adaptive reuse of historic mill buildings and provides incentives for reuse.
- Strengthen/establish dialogue and partnerships with local cultural based non-profits (e.g.,. Pettaquamscutt Historical Society) to provide resources and educational opportunities to residents and visitors concerning the value of protecting the Town's historic heritage.
- Embrace the historic architectural details of the village centers which help create a sense of a classic New England small town.

Natural and Cultural Resources Vision

The Town will preserve and protect its natural and cultural resources, recognizing their importance to the quality of life today and in the future. The Town of South Kingstown is endowed with abundant natural resources including excellent groundwater, beaches, salt ponds, estuaries, freshwater ponds and wetland systems, rivers and the community forest comprised of all trees in town that benefit not just residents but attract tourists from throughout New England. The Town shall continue to protect these natural resources through its Open Space Acquisition Program, through remediation of contamination, and through onsite wastewater management inspections. The Town supports the preservation of scenic forests, rural farmlands, and unique historic villages. The Town's Native American historic legacy will continue to enrich the quality of life, providing a prehistoric context of locations important to the Narragansett Indian Tribe's cycle of life. The Town's colonial and industrial historic legacy, now visible in the context of stone walls, historic homes and factories, and cemeteries, will be protected for future generations. The Town shall continue to preserve, protect and enhance its cultural resources through expanding local measures for historic preservation, flexible design incentives, and education of town staff, board and commission members, and citizens regarding these resources.

Natural and Cultural Resources Action Plan

To preserve, protect, and enhance the Town's natural and cultural resources, many of which are not renewable, and to integrate these into planning for the future through the plan review and approval process.

Goal 1: To protect and to preserve the quality and quantity of the Town's potable water supply.

Policy 1.1 - The Town recognizes that most of its drinking water is from a Sole Source Aquifer and that no reasonable alternate source exists. Therefore, a town priority is the protection of these groundwater resources. Because the ground and surface waters are interconnected, strategies must be implemented to preserve quality of ground and surface waters in an integrated manner.

Implementation

- The Town shall monitor the effectiveness of its groundwater protection overlay district. This overlay includes the groundwater reservoirs and the recharge areas as delineated by DEM.

The purpose of the ordinance is to protect, to preserve, and to maintain the quality and supply of groundwater in the Town of South Kingstown. The ordinance shall be reviewed and assessed by the Planning Department and Conservation Commission on a project-by-project basis and the ordinance shall be updated as necessary.

Policy 1.2 - The Town recognizes that the supply of potable water from the aquifers is limited. The Town will work toward protecting the quantity of potable water and will link growth management plans to the amount of water available for both residential and non-residential uses. The Town shall continue to work with the RI State Water Resources Board regarding water use allocation.

Implementation

- The Town shall endorse state legislation to regulate groundwater withdrawal for the purpose of developing a comprehensive management strategy to ensure an adequate existing and future water supply for the Town of South Kingstown and the State.
- The Town shall work to protect and promote the quality of groundwater supplies used by either private wells or by water districts.

Policy 1.3 - The Town will give priority use to drinking water.

Implementation

- The Town shall project the potable water needs of South Kingstown for the next twenty (20) years and develop a water use priority for water pumped from underground reservoirs areas (GAA areas) to include both residential and non-residential uses.

Policy 1.4 - The Town recognizes that a watershed management approach to resource protection and utilization is necessary. It is therefore necessary to plan on both a town-wide and regional basis based upon watershed boundaries to coordinate resource management issues. It also means that such programs as erosion and sediment control, stormwater management, aquifer use and protection, and Open Space Acquisition need to be planned on both a town-wide and inter-town (regional) basis.

Implementation

- The Town shall continue to protect lands overlying groundwater reservoirs through its Open Space Acquisition Program. Groundwater protection remains a priority of that program.
- The Town shall continue to work with private water suppliers and adjacent towns to develop compatible water protection plans.
- The Town shall work with the State to implement salting practices which minimize degradation of ground and surface waters in GAA watershed areas.
- The Town shall continue to integrate groundwater issues into public education programs: water conservation, household hazardous waste, septic systems, underground storage tanks (home heating fuel), pesticides, and other groundwater information.
- The Town shall implement ordinances on underground storage tanks to address the issues of tank monitoring strategies, tank removal, and tank prohibitions.
- The Town shall implement recommendations for best management practices included within

the DEM Stormwater Design and Installation Standards Manual (2011), as amended.

Goal 2: To protect and to preserve both freshwater and coastal wetland resources.

Policy 2.1 - The Town will work toward protecting the integrity of the varied wetlands which serve many important ecological and economic functions. Protection efforts will be directed toward swamps, marshes, bogs, floodplains, rivers, streams, ponds, wet meadows, aquatic beds, beaches, and all other wetlands as defined by DEM Freshwater Wetlands Act, April 1998, as amended. The Town will pursue both regulatory and nonregulatory options for ensuring the protection of these resources.

Implementation

- The Town shall work with DEM to establish the regulatory right of the Town to deny and / or condition Freshwater Wetlands Permits based on compliance with the Comprehensive Plan.
- The Town shall implement recommendations of its RI Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES) Phase II Stormwater Management Plan.
- The Town shall adopt a wetland protection ordinance to protect specific areas identified as critical wetland resource areas.
- The Town shall adopt a river corridor overlay protection district to protect: a) the wildlife habitat associated with the rivers; b) the scenic, rural quality associated with the rivers; and c) the water quality of the rivers.
- The Town shall develop a freshwater ponds and lakes management plan to address such issues as docks, public access and land use in the watershed.
- The Town shall develop a system to track the state wetland permits to identify areas of wetland disturbance and to monitor compliance with local and state approval conditions.
- The Town shall develop a wetlands protection checklist for development proposals. This would formalize recommendations made in the RI Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook (1989), as amended, and the DEM Stormwater Design and Installation Standards Manual (2011), as amended. The checklist shall be used by the Conservation Commission and Planning Board to ensure a consistent wetland protection policy.

Policy 2.2 - The Town recognizes that the irreplaceable coastal resources need comprehensive protection. The Town will take a regional watershed approach, critical to preserving these fragile resources, to address land use, stormwater runoff, and all point and non-point source pollution. The Town will pursue management strategies consistent with the CRMC's Special Area Management Plan for the Salt Ponds (1999) and the Special Area Management Plan for the Narrow River (1999).

Implementation

- The Town shall continue implementation of the CRMC Narrow River Special Area Management (SAM) Plan (1999) and the Salt Ponds SAM Plan (1999).
- The Town shall continue implementation of the Harbor Management Plan (Nov. 1992, as amended).
- The Town shall work with CRMC to ensure the protection of undeveloped barrier beaches in South Kingstown, specifically, Green Hill, Browning, and Moonstone beaches.
- The Town will work to support the policies outlined in the CRMC Coastal Resources

Management Program, 1990, as amended.

- The Town shall work to minimize development on developed barrier beaches and to ensure that any construction is done in a way which minimizes environmental impact.

Policy 2.3 - The Town shall actively communicate with CRMC about local land use goals, policies and regulations for areas with CRMC Special Area Management Plans (SAMP) to ensure that its approvals or other regulatory actions are consistent with this Comprehensive Plan.

Implementation

- The Town shall work with CRMC to ensure that assents and permits granted in the SAMP areas within the community are consistent with the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Community Plan.

Policy 2.4 - The Town will work toward developing corridors of open space throughout the Town to ensure the protection of rivers, steams, wetlands, agricultural lands, scenic features, groundwater reservoirs and recharge areas, and wildlife habitat.

Implementation

- The Town shall continue its Open Space Acquisition Program to implement this policy.
- The Town shall continue to support the concept of corridor zoning to provide for a conservation zone or greenway along selected rivers within the Town, in order to both maintain the rural character of the Town and to protect river resources.
- The Town will amend its Open Space Acquisition program to support the concept of "pocket parks" or small greenspace areas within the urban portions of the community as a means to provide for amenities within the more densely developed village settings.

Goal 3: To protect and preserve agricultural land within the Town.

Policy 3.1 - The Town supports the preservation of farmland for farming activities and encourages a local healthy food system by providing opportunities for local farmers to sell their products locally.

Implementation

- The Town shall conduct an audit of existing policies and land use ordinances regarding agricultural activities for consistency with the Rhode Island Agricultural Partnership's Five Year Strategic Plan and recommendations from "South Kingstown: Designing a Healthier Community" to ensure the viability of farming activities and to support a local food system.
- The Town shall utilize a combination of regulatory techniques and amendments (zoning), public and private funding resources (e.g., land trusts, easements, purchase of development rights), and economic strategies (e.g., providing opportunities to sell/purchase locally grown products) to achieve the necessary protection of farmland and encouragement of farming activities.
- The Town Council shall consider a resolution stating that the Town and the University will work collaboratively together to support a locally based food system that includes sustainable local agriculture and aquaculture activities.

- The Town shall encourage local partnerships and information sharing to support an equitable local food system for all residents including low-income populations who may not have equal access to healthy foods based on cost or accessibility.
- The Town shall explore ordinance and regulatory amendments to allow for the cultivation of locally grown foods on private residential and commercial lots, including home-based food production, where appropriate.
- The Town will promote continued and new participation in the State's Farm, Forest and Open Space Program (FFOS). Promotion efforts will include education of the public and potential participants about the value of the program and active communication with existing participants about the benefits of continuing the program.
- The Town shall continue to promote participation in the Farm Land Preservation Act as a measure to encourage the continued maintenance of the historic landscape of South Kingstown.
- The Town shall support efforts to protect South Kingstown's coastal zone through a variety of land use strategies cited in the Natural and Cultural Resources and Land Use Elements of the Comprehensive Plan.
- The Town shall continue its preservation of agricultural lands through the Open Space Acquisition Program.
- The Town shall consider developing a farmland/open space overlay district based on prime agricultural soils, existing and historic farm usage, character of the surrounding area, and open space. Development shall be guided to appropriate areas on the property through site plan and review.
- The Town shall consider developing a Transfer of Development Rights Program through either an intra-municipal or inter-municipal program for the purpose of protecting open space and agricultural resources in town.
- The Town shall continue its public education program to make landowners aware of the variety of protection options, environmentally sound management practices, and opportunities to support a local food system that includes sustainable local agriculture and aquaculture activities.

Policy 3.2 - The Town recognizes that there is a significant amount of agricultural activity in South Kingstown and that there is the potential for ground and surface water degradation from fertilizers, pesticides, stormwater, and soil erosion.

Implementation

- The Town will work with appropriate agencies and implement current best management practices to mitigate the potential contamination of the water resources from these activities.

Goal 4: To protect and to preserve other natural resource areas within the Town.

Policy 4.1 - The Town recognizes that native species of trees and forests are a major natural resource in the Town, providing abatement for noise, water, air, and land pollution. Trees also contribute to the rural character of the Town. The Town supports protection of this valuable resource.

Implementation

- The Town shall inventory the indigenous habitat types using RI Geographic Information Systems (RIGIS) and identify areas which need protection. The protection program shall be coordinated with State and conservation organization programs.
- The Town shall review and update Subdivision and Land Development Regulations to provide better tree protection standards for public and private construction and standards for planting and maintenance of required street trees.
- The Town shall develop an inventory of significant specimen trees within the village areas and establish policies for protecting these trees for preserving community character and supporting a pedestrian-friendly environment.
- The Town shall implement the RI Urban and Community Forest Plan. According to municipal data South Kingstown is nearly 59 percent forested as of 2010. The objective is to retain/enhance canopy coverage in developed areas and practice sustainable management of large forested tracts, recognizing that land clearance and development will continue.
- The Conservation Commission shall strengthen its activities in the following areas:
    a) Pursuing acquisition by gift, purchase, or lease of lands identified as having significant conservation value;
    b) Managing these lands and improving their value for conservation or passive recreation;
    c) Increasing active advocacy for environmental legislation at the state and local level;
    d) Developing public education and information programs; and,
    e) Working with the Planning Department to develop a tracking system for approvals to monitor compliance with conditions applied to development proposals.

Policy 4.2 - The Town recognizes the importance of inventorying, maintaining, and protecting biodiversity as a critical component of the Town's natural resources.

Implementation

- The Town shall continue to update its inventory of Natural Heritage Areas based on RIDEM designations and new data from RIGIS.
- The Town shall integrate concepts regarding the protection of biodiversity within its Open Space Acquisition program.
- The Town shall continue to require applicants to provide information relative to Natural Heritage Areas and, where appropriate, shall condition applications to protect sensitive biodiversity.

Policy 4.3 - The Town recognizes that natural resource preservation and conservation will be realized more effectively if protection efforts are coordinated with other towns, state and federal agencies, and private conservation groups.

Implementation

- The Town shall continue to work with adjacent towns and the Washington County Regional Planning Council to develop compatible resource protection plans.
- The Town shall work with the Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the South Kingstown and Narrow River Land Trusts,, the water suppliers, and the State to protect

environmentally sensitive areas through acquisition, easements, or purchase of development rights. Additional nonregulatory protection strategies shall be identified.

Policy 4.4 - The Town recognizes that a litter control program, coordinated with DEM, is needed to improve the aesthetics of the Town.

Implementation

- The Town shall implement a litter control program to improve the appearance of the Town's streets, sidewalks, parks, and other public places and to support a pedestrian-friendly environment.
- The Town shall continue to provide supportive services to assist the annual coastal clean-up program sponsored by the Ocean Conservancy (International Coastal Cleanup Program) which is coordinated locally by the Audubon Society of Rhode Island.

Goal 5: To expand the measures available for protecting cultural resources to provide maximum protection to South Kingstown's historic and prehistoric resources.

Policy 5.1 - The Town will continue to expand its inventory of: a) historic buildings and structures; and, b) historic and prehistoric archaeological sites, ensuring that all aspects and periods of South Kingstown's history are identified and preserved where appropriate.

Implementation

- The Town shall seek state funding for conducting an update to the South Kingstown's historic resource inventory.
- The Town shall continue to encourage nominations to the National Register of individual historic buildings and districts and archaeological sites and districts, especially as resources become eligible (sites must be historically significant and at least 50 years old).
- The Town shall consider keeping a copy of its historic resource inventory on file with a local cultural repository such as the Peace Dale Library to be available to the general public for research and reference needs. Other repositories which could be investigated include RI Department of Transportation (RIDOT)'s repository at the Woonsocket Depot.

Policy 5.2 - The Town will expand the measures available for protecting cultural resources to provide maximum protection to South Kingstown's historic and prehistoric resources.

Implementation

- The Town shall review and revise where applicable all existing policies and regulations for protecting historic resources within the planning and development review process.
- The Town shall amend the Historic District Ordinance to include the elements of the current enabling legislation.
- The Town shall consider expanding the Historic District Commission authority to review and comment on historic and culturally significant buildings and sites on a town-wide basis.
- The Town shall research the establishment of an ordinance requiring a waiting period when a historic building is proposed for demolition. The waiting period would permit alternatives to demolition to be fully explored before any structure is razed.

- The Town shall consider establishment of a procedure to extend historic zoning (Historic Overlay District) to individual significant structures.
- The Town shall review the South Kingstown Residential Design Manual and the Historic Overlay District (see Zoning Ordinance Section 600) and revise as necessary to ensure the protection of cultural resources, including historic buildings, structures, and landscape features, and archeological sites, from adverse impacts of development activities.
- When cultural resources will be impacted, development or subdivision proposals shall be reviewed in consultation with a professional archaeologist or historic preservation specialist to develop an alternative plan or appropriate mitigative action. The professional archaeologist shall be hired by the Town and funded by the applicant.
- The Town shall use easements to protect open land, including agricultural land and areas along the shoreline that contribute to the historic context of the Town.
- The Town shall consider developing, within the limits of state enabling legislation, appropriate ordinances and regulations to help protect features, including field patterns, coast line, stone walls, cemeteries, and signage.
- The Town shall devise a policy and standards to govern the installation of identification signage for historic districts, properties and sites.

Policy 5.3 - The Town supports the development and the promotion of the economic benefits of preservation.

Implementation

- The Town shall participate in programs and utilize resources from the National Trust's Main Street Center, Community Development Block Grants, or other available funding sources.
- The Town shall encourage residents to qualify for state and federal investment tax credits by restoring historic buildings on the National Register of Historic Places.

Policy 5.4 - The Town will preserve the unique identity of the villages that comprise South Kingstown, as well as those cultural features that identify the Town as a whole.

Implementation

- The Town shall continue to support the development of Village Plans, such as the "South Kingstown Village Study: Villages of Wakefield and Peace Dale", to identify and establish recommendations relative to protecting cultural and historic resources, among other issues, appropriate for each Village.
- The Town shall continue to implement the recommendations of its Village Plans to enhance the unique cultural identities of each village and to protect their cultural and historic resources.
- The Town shall continue to implement the recommendations of “South Kingstown: Designing a Healthier Community” as they relate to supporting healthy village environments and cultural
- The South Kingstown Residential Design Manual shall be used to direct development according to the traditional character and patterns of the villages. Development shall be focused in and around the villages, in an effort to maintain the rural nature of outlying areas.

Policy 5.5 - The Town will encourage the continued use and adaptive reuse of historic buildings.

Implementation

- The Town shall adopt a regulatory framework that facilitates adaptive reuse of historic mill buildings and other historic structures to provide incentive for reuse.

Policy 5.6 - The Town supports educating residents, as well as visitors, to the importance of preserving cultural resources and of the intrinsic value of historic buildings and sites in South Kingstown.

Implementation

- The Historic District Commission shall manage the Town's educational efforts regarding South Kingstown's cultural resources.
- The Historic District Commission shall continue to develop and make available to historic home owners a how-to booklet of do-it-yourself guidelines for restoration.
- The Town shall, on an ongoing basis, utilize the Town website and other communication vehicles to provide information and increase awareness about the cultural resources of the community. Such outreach shall also provide information about programs and options to protect and enhance these community features.
- The Town shall support the Museum of Primitive Art and Culture's ongoing Public Education Program which provides outreach and enrichment units that dovetail with 3rd and 5th grade curricula.
- The Town shall support the Museum of Primitive Art and Culture's distribution of guided and self-guided walking and driving tours (*The Village of Peace Dale: A Precious Legacy* and *The Indians and Colonists of South County, Rhode Island: A Driving Tour*), as well as the development of future pamphlets that highlight the cultural resources of South Kingstown.
- The Town shall support the efforts of local organizations (e.g., the Museum of Primitive Art and Culture) to sponsor monthly evening lecture series on subjects related to South Kingstown's history and historic resources in order to increase awareness among the Town's citizens. In addition to general programs, symposia are held on issues of importance to specific groups, such as small business owners, bankers, and realtors who may not be familiar with the benefits of preservation.
- The Town will continue to support local grassroots organizations' efforts to promote the preservation and enhancement of our historic villages, natural and cultural resources using video and other electronic multi-media. (The recent promotional film developed by Peace Dale Neighborhood Revitalization Incorporated (PDNRI) is cited as an example of this type of program).

Goal 6: To adequately prepare for natural hazards including changes in climate and sea level rise.

Policy 6.1 - The Town recognizes the need to prepare and plan for continued changes to our coastline and related impacts on our infrastructure from storm events and long term climate change.

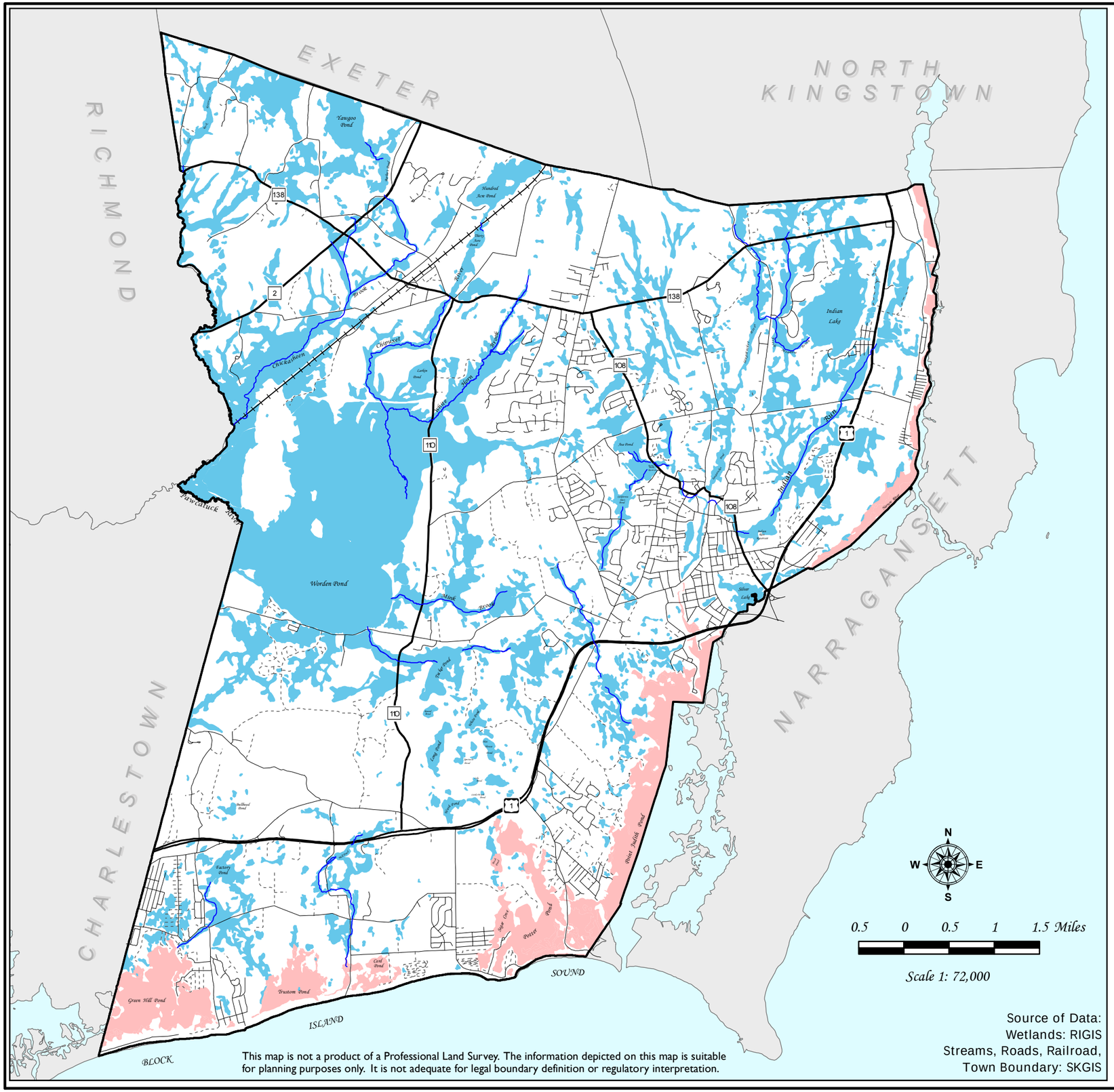
Implementation

- The Town shall coordinate with CRMC and develop policies to protect business owners, residents and the general public from impacts to the coastline, particularly in Matunuck Village.
- The Town shall continue to build upon and implement the measures identified in the *Multi-Hazard Mitigation Strategy Plan* (2006, as amended).

Town of South Kingstown

Comprehensive Plan

Wetlands



Coastal Wetlands

Inland Wetlands

Rivers and Streams

State / Federal Highway

Local Roads

Private Roads

Railroad

This map is not a product of a Professional Land Survey. The information depicted on this map is suitable for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition or regulatory interpretation.

Source of Data:
Wetlands: RIGIS
Streams, Roads, Railroad, Town Boundary: SKGIS

Map 5.1

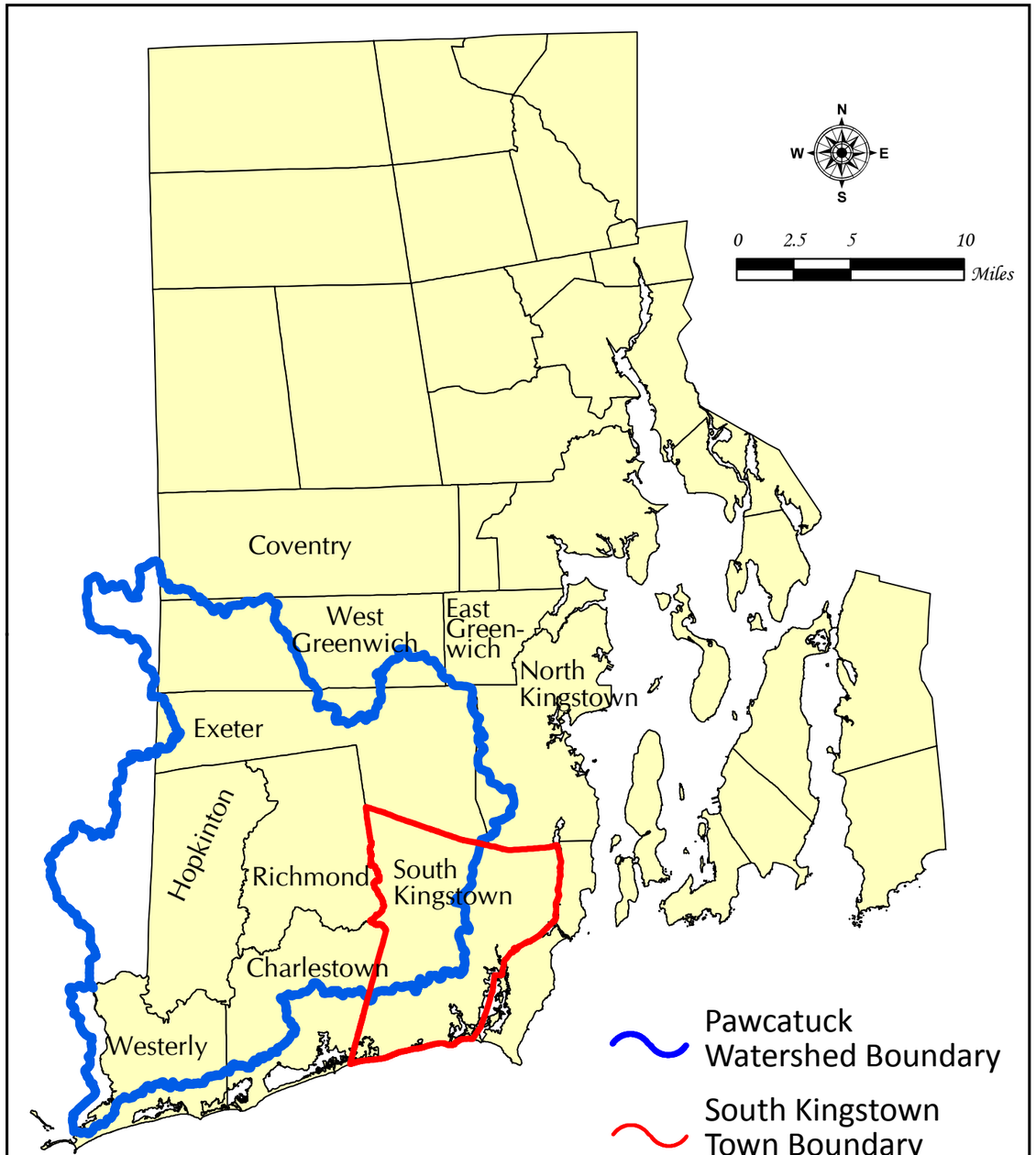
Geographic Information System

PL14-12 cpb 1/14

Town of South Kingstown

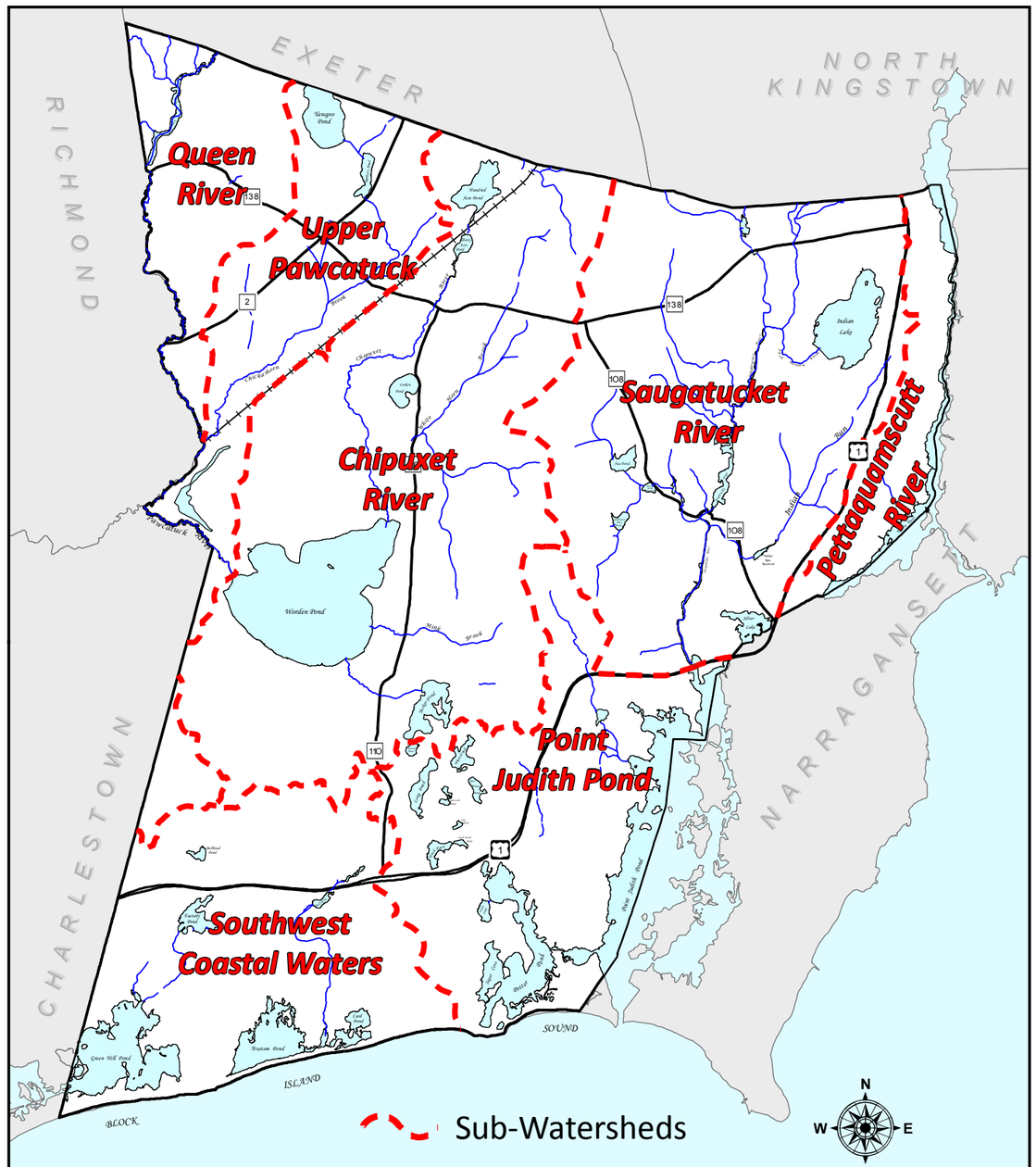
Comprehensive Plan

WATERSHEDS AND SUBWATERSHEDS



This map is not a product of a Professional Land Survey. The information depicted on this map is suitable for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition or regulatory interpretation.

Source of Data:
2009 RIGIS Watershed Dataset
Town Boundaries: RIGIS



Source of Data:
2009 RIGIS Watershed Dataset

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Map 5.2

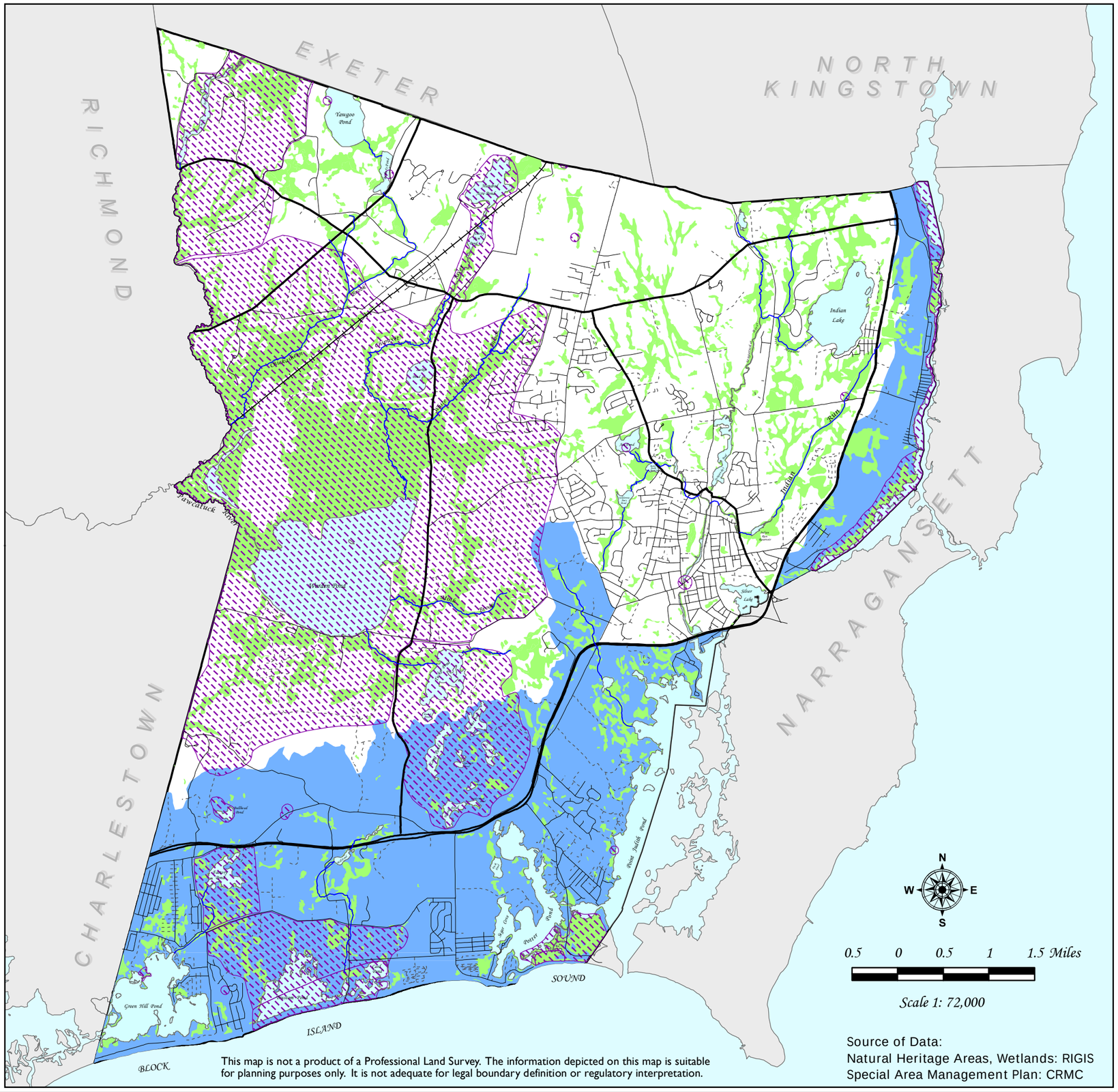
Geographic Information System

PL14-13 cpb 1/14

Town of South Kingstown

Comprehensive Plan

CRITICAL AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS



This map is not a product of a Professional Land Survey. The information depicted on this map is suitable for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition or regulatory interpretation.

Source of Data:
Natural Heritage Areas, Wetlands: RIGIS
Special Area Management Plan: CRMC

- Natural Heritage Areas
- Wetlands
- Special Area Management Plan
- State / Federal Highway
- Local Roads
- Private Roads
- Railroad
- Streams
- Lakes and Ponds

SOUTH KINGSTOWN * WASHINGTON COUNTY RHODE ISLAND * INCORPORATED 1723

Geographic Information System

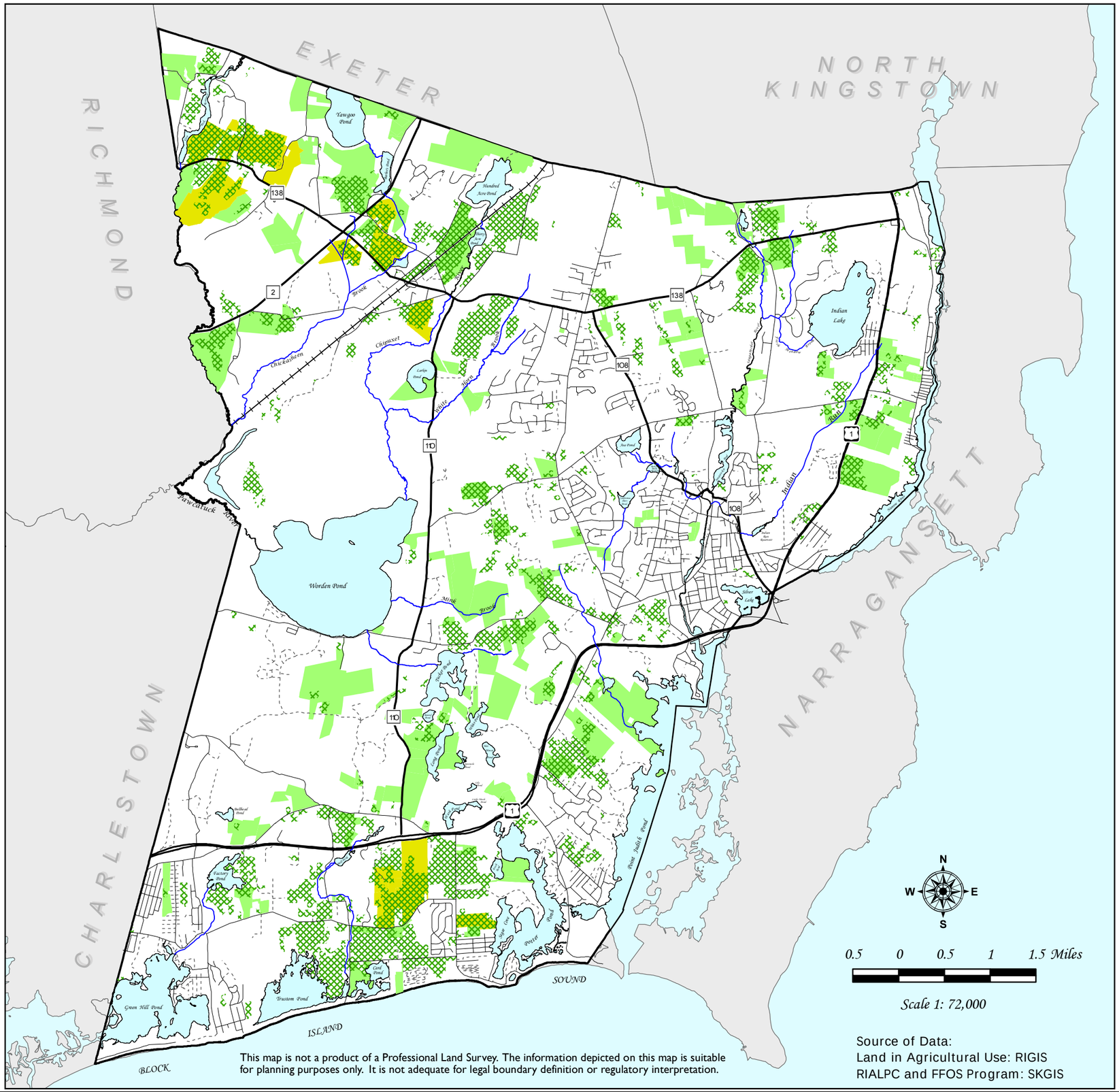
PL14-14 cpb 1/14

Map 5.3

Town of South Kingstown

Comprehensive Plan

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES



This map is not a product of a Professional Land Survey. The information depicted on this map is suitable for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition or regulatory interpretation.

Source of Data:
Land in Agricultural Use: RIGIS
RIALPC and FFOS Program: SKGIS

- Rhode Island Agricultural Land Preservation Commission Properties
- Land Currently in Agricultural Use
- Farm, Forest and Open Space Program

- State / Federal Highway
- Local Roads
- Private Roads
- Railroad
- Streams
- Lakes and Ponds

SOUTH KINGSTOWN * INCORPORATED * WASHINGTON COUNTY RHODE ISLAND * 1723

Geographic Information System

Map 5.4

PL14-15 cpb 1/14

Town of South Kingstown

Comprehensive Plan

GROUNDWATER RESOURCES

- Community Water Supply Wells
- Aquifer Recharge Areas
- Groundwater Reservoirs
- Groundwater Protection Overlay Districts (GPOD)
- Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPA) to Community Wells
- Lakes and Ponds
- Streams
- State / Federal Highway
- Local Roads
- Private Roads
- Railroad

EXETER
NORTH KINGSTOWN
RICHMOND
CHARLESTOWN
NARRAGANSETT
BLOCK ISLAND SOUND
Yawgoo Pond
Worden Pond
Indian Lake
Chickasheen
Chipuxet
Usquepaug
Queen
Pawcatuck
Tuckertown Pond
Glen Rock
Factory Pond
Grist Pond
Trustom Pond
Green Hill Pond
Point Judith Pond
Silver Lake

N W E S

0.5 0 0.5 1 1.5 Miles

Scale 1: 72,000

Source of Data:
Wells, Recharge, WHPA, Groundwater Reservoirs: RIGIS
GPOD: SKGIS

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Map 5.5

Geographic Information System

PL14-16 cpb 1/14

Town of South Kingstown

Comprehensive Plan

CULTURAL RESOURCES

- National Historic Register Properties
- Historic Cemeteries
- Ministerial Road - Rhode Island Designated Scenic Highway
- Kingston Historic District (As defined by Town Zoning Ordinance)
- National Register Historic Districts
- Scenic Landscapes

DISTINCTIVE LANDSCAPES

D068 Slocum Turf Farms / Yawgoo Pond
D095 Trustom Pond / Matunuck
D101 Pettaquamscutt Cove / Narrow River

NOTEWORTHY LANDSCAPES

N074 Pettaquamscutt River
N091 South County Trail
N093 Worden Pond / Larkin Pond
N094 Perryville
N096 Snug Harbor / Jerusalem
N098 Tuckertown
N099 Sugarloaf Hill
N100 Curtis Corner

- State / Federal Highway
- Local Roads
- Private Roads
- Railroad
- Streams
- Lakes and Ponds

National Register archeological sites not shown on this map to protect historic resources

Map 5.6

Geographic Information System

PL14-17 cpb 1/14

0.5 0 0.5 1 1.5 Miles

Scale 1: 72,000

Source of Data:
Scenic Landscapes and: RIGIS
Cemeteries, Historic Districts: SKGIS
National Historic Register Sites: RIHPHC

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Services and Facilities

Services and Facilities Element

Introduction

The Services and Facilities Element considers municipal services provided by the Town of South Kingstown's Department of Public Services, the Police Department, School Department and Leisure Services (Department of Parks and Recreation, Senior Services Department and, Library Department). It also addresses services of private water and fire districts within the Town. The ability of the Town to provide these services within the existing municipal budget is increasingly challenging, given recent increases in the school budget, funding cuts from the state level, and other factors associated with the difficult economic climate.

Historic Neighborhood Guild facility in the Village of Peace Dale

In the tradition of rural communities, the Town does not provide many services taken for granted in urban areas. Part of the "small town" character of the community comes from supporting the volunteer fire districts, taking household trash to the transfer station, and viewing the night sky without the glare of streetlights. In particular, the tradition of volunteer fire companies within the Town provides the community with essential public safety services at a fraction of the cost to the taxpayers that would be incurred if the Town were to take over these functions. With increasing development and relocation of people from more metropolitan areas of the state or from out of state, the level of expectation of municipal services is increasing.

Various municipal departments are directly charged with protecting the quality of life so important to the citizens of South Kingstown. In particular, the Public Services Department is responsible for services and facilities related to: drinking water; wastewater; town roadway maintenance, repairs and construction; stormwater maintenance; engineering services; solid waste removal; and the Town's Tree Program. The Public Services Department also manages the Town's sewer service and wastewater treatment at the regional plant in Narragansett, actions that positively affect the groundwater and surface water quality of sewered areas. Sewer service allows for a higher density of development as compared to onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS), and this creates several growth management implications. The Town has defined a boundary for the Sewer Service Area as shown in Map 6.1. A higher density of development (with potentially more affordable homes) is possible in sewered areas because the setback requirements between OWTS and wells can be avoided. Sewer service also has the potential to enable open space or conservation zoning where houses are built on smaller lots and a portion of the subdivision is retained for common open space (with no net increase in the number of allowable houses). Sewer extensions also enable development of industrial land use within critical groundwater aquifer recharge zones.

In an effort to provide administrative and cost efficiencies the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Senior Services Department were consolidated in terms of administration under the Director of Leisure Services, a position created in 2009. While both entities retain their respective identities and generalized functional programmatic responsibilities, this consolidation has achieved the goals of cost

efficiency and administrative continuity envisioned with the consolidation. Although administered by a single entity, for the purposes of this plan element, the Department of Parks and Recreation and Department of Senior Services will be referenced separately in text discussions of areas pertinent to each function.

Services and Facilities Achievements

The Town of South Kingstown has continued to meet the goal established in the 1992 comprehensive plan:

> ***To provide the Town with basic public services and facilities in a prompt and efficient manner.***

Major services and facilities accomplishments over the past decade include the following:

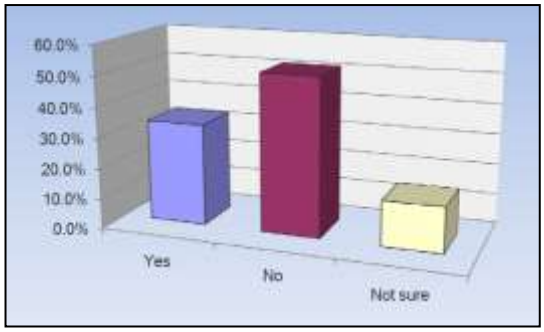
- Completed the closure and initiated remediation of the Superfund landfills on Rose Hill Road and in West Kingston. Both sites are currently under a long-term monitoring plan.
- Stormwater management programs minimized pollution of surface waters by requiring Best Management Practices to protect the quality of receiving waters.
- Maintained quality water service to the Middlebridge area through the United Water District. Beginning in 2003 the Town began wholesale purchase of water from United Water to service the South Shore Water District as a result of water quality concerns from the source wells in Green Hill.
- Constructed a permanent drinking water interconnection along U.S. Route 1 between United Water and the South Shore system in August 2005.
- In cooperation with RIDOT, assisted the completion of Phase II of the William C. O'Neill Bike Path from Peace Dale south to Wakefield at Route 108. Phase III of the bike path has been completed providing a connection of the path systems through to Narragansett.
- Repaired the Matunuck Point Steps after they were severely damaged during the March 2009 storm event. The step concrete panels were removed and reset by in-house Highway staff.
- Construction was completed for a new Dog Park at Broad Rock Play Fields.
- A Draft Wastewater Facilities Plan amendment for the Green Hill Pond area of town was completed and submitted to federal and state regulatory agencies for review and comment.
- A total of 303 on-site wastewater treatment (OWTS) inspections were performed in FY 2009-2010.
- Three (3) Community Septic System Loan Program (CSSLP) loans were awarded during the 2009-2010 fiscal year in the amount of $40,600. A total of 82 loans in the amount of $1,148,108 have been awarded since CSSLP began.
- The Town has successfully embarked on a licensing program with residential solid waste haulers to ensure that all residents are practicing curbside recycling. To manage this licensure program, the Town has hired, through grant funding, a recycling coordinator who works with both haulers and residents to address any concerns or questions.
- The Town has continued its policy that all new subdivisions should contribute to recreation needs for future residents through land dedication, direct payments, or service cost recovery fees.
- The Department of Parks and Recreation has offered at least 100 programs each year from 2005 to 2009.

- The Department of Parks and Recreation and Senior Services Department, as demonstrated by the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), has provided an active maintenance and rehabilitation program to upgrade existing sites and facilities.
- Library circulation and holdings continue to rise and programming activities have been initiated to meet the needs of the Town for Internet, audiovisual material, and computer use.
- Attendance at library-sponsored programs in 2009 totaled 13,196 individuals.

Survey Findings

The South Kingstown Community Survey conducted in 2010 included the following findings regarding Services and Facilities issues:

- Approximately 52 percent of respondents indicated that they would NOT be willing to pay more taxes for expansion or improvement of town services. This is a decrease from the 2003 survey in which 60 percent of respondents were not willing to pay more taxes for an expansion of services indicating a modest increase in the number of residents that see value in expanding town services.
- Of the 33 percent of respondents willing to pay more taxes for expansion or improvement of services, 50 percent were willing to pay more for schools, 43 percent for roads and highways, 30 percent for recreation facilities, 25 percent for the fire districts, 25 percent for recreation services, 20 percent for emergency medical services, and 15 percent for police services (respondents were allowed to select more than one town service for improvement). Similar to the 2003 survey, schools, and roads/highways were the top two town services preferred for improvement.



An expansion or improvement of Town services may require an increase in local taxes. With that in mind, do you believe there is a need to expand any Town services?

Visioning Process

The visioning process for the Comprehensive Plan Update occurred through a series of information gathering techniques including:

- Two public workshops focused on comprehensive planning issues held on April 6, 2010 and May 24, 2011;
- Informational interviews with key community members and board members;
- Multiple public outreach and engagement events occurring throughout the concurrent Healthy Places by Design grant process;
- The use of Planning Board work sessions to discuss and refine Comprehensive Plan concepts; and
- The use of a project website to provide updates and draft materials to the community.

The following section summarizes the concepts and ideas that emerged from the visioning process regarding Services and Facilities. These ideas were organized into the following four groups: Infrastructure Strategies within the Villages, Identifying Opportunities for Improvement, Ensuring Effective Emergency Response Services, and Strategies for Improving Recreation Programming.

Infrastructure Strategies within the Villages

- Focus infrastructure expansions and investments within existing villages to maintain them as cohesive and coordinated areas for sustainable growth.
- Prioritize roadway and sidewalk improvements and investments within the village areas and along major access routes to ensure viability.
- Consider the potential impacts of future infrastructure improvements in the Village of West Kingston and how infrastructure expansions will shape the growth of the area in anticipation of pending improvements for commuter rail service at Kingston Station.
- Ensure that the University of Rhode Island (URI) is an active planning partner with the Town for expansions of public services and infrastructure in the Kingston Village and surrounding area.
- Consider implementing recommendations from the "South Kingstown Village Study: Villages of Wakefield and Peace Dale" relative to drainage improvements.
- Continue to communicate with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) regarding critical improvements for state roadways, with particular emphasis on moving forward with drainage improvements for High Street between the Villages of Peace Dale and Wakefield.
- Consider, and implement as appropriate, the concepts and recommendations of the URI Landscape Architecture Studio (Fall of 2008) from the project entitled: Route 108 Corridor Study, Peace Dale to Kingston.
- The Town will continue to support the South Kingstown “Trolley Program” as a creative alternative transit program that combines congestion mitigation, local economic development and regional tourism promotion. The Town and “Trolley Program” providers will assess the feasibility of new routes for trolley service based on recommendations and outreach outcomes defined in “South Kingstown: Designing a Healthier Community.”
- Engage the community to plan for the potential future expansion of commuter rail service to Kingston Station. Initial planning efforts will focus on assessing the possible impacts of increased commuter traffic in the area while considering site constraints such as ground water protection, historic preservation issues, and parking limitations.
- Consider Subdivision and land development Regulations amendments to strengthen the application of building design standards in village areas that support pedestrian, bicycle and transit activity.

Identifying Opportunities for Improvement

- Advance long-range infrastructure planning as a concept that must become ingrained in the local culture.
- Promote innovative standards for drainage design utilizing such techniques as LID (low impact development) and flexible paving surface requirements to promote on-site treatment and infiltration of stormwater where appropriate. The use of these practices must become the norm rather than an option.
- Account for the cumulative impacts of development relative to public services and facilities through a more defined regulatory mechanism.
- Utilize the Town’s website and other means to inform and educate residents about the Town’s Growth Management Program and existing limitations in zoning that will prevent suburban sprawl patterns that have adversely affected other RI communities.

- Evaluate the potential for improvements along Old Tower Hill Road between Route 1 and Dale Carlia Corner to install a green boulevard median with the capacity to manage and treat stormwater.
- Continue to ensure staffing levels are sufficient to perform OWTS inspections in town and identify appropriate funding sources for property owners for system upgrade, repair or replacement.
- Utilize innovative technology OWTS systems to protect environmental resources and avoid overburdening previously undevelopable areas.
- Continue to test and exercise the South Shore well field in the event it needs to be reactivated in an emergency.
- Encourage projects with a Complete Streets approach where all users of the environment are considered, such as pedestrians, cyclists, drivers, as well as residents/business owners.

Ensuring Effective Emergency Response Services

- Identify opportunities for town emergency response departments (Police, Emergency Medical Services, and Volunteer Fire) to improve inter-departmental coordination and sharing of responsibilities during emergency responses and incident command system procedures.
- Consider establishing a regular quarterly meeting among emergency response department heads and applicable town staff to increase levels of coordination.
- Consider and plan for emergency response needs in the design and construction of transportation improvement projects.
- Support appropriate capital facility planning and program development by the volunteer fire districts serving South Kingstown.
- In cooperation with the Union and Kingston Fire Districts, explore the development of a recruitment and incentive-based program to attract and retain volunteers.

Strategies for Improving Recreation Programming

- Increase the percentage of funding for recreation programs derived from private and grant funding requests.
- Improve the Recreation Department's ability to manage and complete projects in-house, through improved coordination with other town departments and outside agencies.
- Develop opportunities for community groups and agencies to take on a more direct role and involvement in community maintenance and service functions.
- Develop an improved relationship and support network between the Recreation Department and local businesses.
- Expand public events and recreation opportunities at the Town Beach.
- Implement a better defined and more functional recreation volunteer program.
- Continue to support the ongoing rehabilitation of the Village Green, Neighborhood Guild, and Community Recreation Center.
- Maintain the Interactive Map of recreational Facilities to allow residents and visitors to find recreational opportunities existing in the Town.
- Support the ongoing process of assessing and improving programming for existing recreational facilities.
- Ensure that recreational facilities and programs adequately address the needs of all user groups.
- Promote existing and create additional recreational opportunities for teens and older children.

On November 12, 2009, the *Water Use and Efficiency Act* became RI law after three years of drafting, advocacy, negotiations and compromise on behalf of the Coalition for Water Security. The purposes of the Act include:

- To help assure reasonable, needed and adequate future water supplies by: managing demand; reinvesting in water supply infrastructure/water supply resources; and, protecting/preserving the health/ecological functioning of the water resources of the State.
- To strengthen water resources and supply planning by implementing, effectively and efficiently, water rates and water supply management plans that are designed to achieve appropriate infrastructure reinvestment and demand management.
- To increase the efficient and effective administration of government responsibilities by establishing municipal water departments, boards, and authorities as self-sustaining enterprise funds.

To fulfill these purposes, applicable to Statewide Planning Program requirements, the Statewide Planning Program shall incorporate, as of July 1, 2011, such amendments as may be necessary into State Guide Plan elements to require:

- The use of water availability estimates developed by the Water Resources Board and the Department of Environmental Management and other relevant information sources in local comprehensive plan elements and the review of major land development and subdivision reviews.
- The incorporation of the executive summaries of the water supply system management plans, as appropriate, into the Services and Facilities Element and the Land Use Element of local comprehensive plans.

Goal 3 of this element (To manage and protect existing water resources for present and future residential and non-residential use in accordance with growth plans for the Town), and Goal 1 of the Natural and Cultural Resources Element (To protect and to preserve the quality and quantity of the Town's potable water supply), and their respective policy items, address the requirement of the Water Use and Efficiency Act, as well as highlighting the protection of a safe drinking water supply as a major priority for South Kingstown.

Services and Facilities Vision

Through implementation of the Services and Facilities Element the Town will continue to provide services compatible with its village and rural tradition, within the constraints of limited fiscal resources. The Town recognizes that public participation is critical to validating town governance. The Town will improve the quality of public education for all its citizens. The use of innovative technology septic disposal systems to permit development in areas previously considered unbuildable utilizing conventional OWTS systems needs to be carefully evaluated and regulated to be compatible in scale and harmonious with the context of its surroundings. The Town will continue to manage and protect its public water supply system and groundwater resources and will work with public water suppliers to ensure that the quality and quantity of water for current and future residents are adequate. The Town will continue its long-term stormwater management program to protect surface and groundwater resources. The Town will implement the Services and Facilities element of the Comprehensive Plan through the Capital Improvement Program.

Services and Facilities Action Plan

To provide the Town with basic public services and facilities in a prompt and efficient manner.

Goal 1: To provide high quality municipal services in a cost-effective manner as required to serve an expanding community and to integrate the Town's growth management program with long-range utility plans.

Policy 1.1 - The Town will continue to provide a high level of administrative functions.

Implementation

- The Town shall continue to update and improve its governing structure and local government procedures where appropriate.
- The Town shall review the adequacy of municipal government administration services in accordance with internal standards, and in conformance with modern management practice.
- The Town Manager shall continue to submit the CIP annually. This document addresses the current year with five-year projections. The intent of the CIP is three-fold: to provide a comprehensive community needs statement, to develop a prioritized implementation schedule for meeting the community needs statement, and to provide financial data relative to the community's ability to manage and finance the costs associated with meeting these defined needs.

Policy 1.2 - The Town will promote a long-range planning effort to address the cumulative impacts of development.

Implementation

- The Town shall continue long-range planning efforts relative to infrastructure assessments and improvements in a manner that is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Town's growth management program.
- The Town shall continue to utilize its Village Plans and related planning documents in guiding long-range planning of town services and facilities.
- The Town shall continue to utilize its utility planning documents such as the Water System Supply Management Plans in guiding long-range planning of town services and facilities.

Goal 2: To provide effective wastewater management through a variety of strategies designed to protect public health and the natural environment.

Policy 2.1 - The Town supports an adequately sized wastewater treatment plant which operates in full compliance with all state and federal standards.

Implementation

- The Town shall comprehensively re-evaluate the adequacy of the wastewater treatment facility every five years when its license is renewed. An annual review shall also be undertaken.

- The Town will expand the centralized sewage treatment facility in an established time frame, based on improvements in technology and the relative needs and fiscal capacity of each user group (South Kingstown, Narragansett and URI).
- Local collection system and pump station improvements shall continue to be made in accordance with the CIP recommendations for pump station improvements and wastewater treatment facility equipment and treatment upgrades.

Policy 2.2 - Future sewer extensions will follow the recommendations of the Land Use Element and will be consistent with the Town's growth management program and the provisions of the Salt Pond Regions Special Area Management Plan.

Implementation

- Proposals to extend sewer service shall only be permitted within the Future Sewer Service Area as shown in Map 6.1 in this plan. The extension of sewers shall not be a basis for allowing greater density than the base zoning of the area would permit.
- The Town will provide sewer service primarily to RM, R-10, selected R-20 zones, and other high and medium high-density residential areas. In unsewered areas with severe septic limitations, only low-density development should occur. High-density development should not occur in areas where there is no public sewer or water available at the time of development.

Policy 2.3 - The Town will address issues regarding onsite wastewater treatment in a manner that is cost effective, environmentally sound, and ensures the safety of its residents.

Implementation

- The Town shall continue to administer the Onsite Wastewater Management Ordinance with OWTS inspections in prioritized districts.
- The Town shall continue its efforts to develop complementary protective measures for OWTS to protect critical natural resources.
- The Town shall explore arrangements with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) to ensure that applicants seeking permits relative to OWTS systems located in regulated wetland areas must receive their approval from the Town before seeking approval from DEM in light of the Town's additional restrictions on OWTS systems.

Policy 2.4 - The Town will integrate wastewater management into water supply decisions.

Implementation

- The Planning Department shall work to coordinate the policies of area water suppliers with wastewater management needs.
- The Town will assess impacts to surface water bodies from potential growth scenarios and wastewater disposal strategies associated with sensitive environmental areas of town.

Goal 3: To manage and protect existing water resources for present and future residential and non-residential use in accordance with growth plans for the Town.

Policy 3.1 - The Town supports an overall water supply management policy and plan that is integrated with the growth management program and long-range utilities plan for the Town.

Implementation

- The Town shall support the Water System Supply Management Plans that have been prepared by Kingston Water, United Water, the Town of South Kingstown and URI for each service area. The Executive Summaries of each of these plans are provided in Appendix G of this plan in compliance with R.I.G.L. § 46-15.3-5.1.
- The Town shall continue to work to protect the quality and quantity of potable water produced from sole-source aquifers through the use of the Town's growth management program and the Groundwater Protection Overlay District.
- The Town shall continue to explore the application of water conservation in its municipal facilities and through its South Shore and Middlebridge water systems during periods of drought or high systems demand.
- The Town shall continue to implement outdoor water bans and/or rationing as necessary to preserve system capacity for public safety and general usage during periods of drought and/or high system demand.

Policy 3.2 - The Town advocates the protection of a safe drinking water supply as a major priority for South Kingstown. The Town is committed to the establishment of programs for aquifer protection and groundwater resource management.

Implementation

- The Town shall continue its Open Space acquisition program to protect groundwater quality through direct purchase of development rights for the most important aquifer recharge areas.

Policy 3.3 - The Town recognizes the need to prioritize water uses (e.g: residential vs. nonresidential).

Implementation

- The Town shall seek legislation on either a town-wide or regional basis to regulate priority of water use (see discussion in Natural Resources Element).

Policy 3.4 - The Town supports the extension of water services in a manner which is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

Implementation

- Town shall evaluate future drinking water extension proposals with regard to the location of existing and proposed water and sewer lines, problem areas, and the overall growth pattern endorsed by the Comprehensive Plan and Land Use 2025.
- The Town shall give priority to waterline extension for areas with contamination of well water. Drinking water contamination caused by constituents for which there are federal standards also will be given priority consideration.

Policy 3.5 - The Town will continue to comply with the Rhode Island Department of Health rules pertaining to public drinking water.

Implementation

- The Town Public Services Department shall continue to conduct an annual evaluation of compliance with standards and a comprehensive five-year evaluation. Any necessary system improvements shall be addressed in the Town's annual operating budget and the six-year CIP.

Policy 3.6 - The Town supports measures to provide a sustainable, uninterrupted supply of potable water to its residents.

Implementation

- The Town, URI, United Water of Rhode Island and the Kingston Water District, shall implement the requirements presented in the Rhode Island Drought Management Plan, State Guide Plan Element 724, June 2002.
- Develop drought planning measures that consider factors beyond simply providing interconnections between the Town's public water suppliers. This is particularly relevant now that the Town is receiving water via United Water of Rhode Island via the Chipuxet sub-basin.
- The Town shall work with local water suppliers to construct interconnections between water services to ensure a continual supply of potable water during low flow droughts and to address emergency spill response.
- The Town shall continue to work with the RI Water Resources Board, United Water of Rhode Island, URI, and Kingston Water to ensure that emergency water supply is available.
- The Town shall research potential state/federal resources to fund the realignment of the South Shore Water System 12-inch main which runs along Matunuck Beach Road as well as the dunes of East Matunuck Beach.

Goal 4: To maintain a solid waste management strategy which focuses on waste reduction, litter control and recycling, and waste management programs which are cost-effective and self-sufficient to the greatest extent possible.

Policy 4.1 - The Town shall continue to maintain or exceed the State's minimum goals of 35% recycling rate and 50% solid waste diversion rate.

Implementation

- The Town shall continue its community recycling program through the "bag and tag" program at the Rose Hill Transfer Station.
- The Town shall promote the new "Recycle Together RI" Program through public education and outreach.
- The Town shall assist licensed private haulers with meeting or exceeding their curbside recycling diversion rates.
- The Town shall continue to promote special waste collection added to the Rose Hill Regional Transfer Station (rigid plastic, used cooking oil).
- The Town shall increase special waste collection at the Rose Hill Regional Transfer Station

to include scrap metal and other possible recyclable material.

Policy 4.2 - The Town shall continue to participate in the monitoring of its landfills to maintain public health and safety.

Implementation

- The Town shall continue the long-term monitoring plans for the recently closed landfills at the Rose Hill Solid Waste Area and the West Kingston Solid Waste Area.
- The Town shall continue to follow the terms of the January 3, 2003 Consent Decree with EPA and DEM as required.

Goal 5: To maintain an effective public works program which recognizes the importance of the maintenance and construction of safe and efficient roads, bridges, sidewalks, bike paths, stormdrains, and parks to serve its residents.

Policy 5.1 - The Town will continue its long-range improvement programs for improvements to roads, bridges, sidewalks, bike paths, stormdrains, and parks in conformance with the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan.

Implementation

- Infrastructure improvement programs will continue to be prioritized through the CIP and the South Kingstown Transportation Improvement Plan, and funded by the Town or through the State Transportation Improvement Plan.

Policy 5.2 - The Town supports an adequately staffed and equipped Public Services Department.

Implementation

- The Town shall continue to evaluate Public Services Department staffing and equipment needs required to accomplish proposed work programs outlined in the CIP and address day to day maintenance and upkeep requirements.

Policy 5.3 - The Town will minimize development along existing or future utility transmission lines, which connect high-density areas.

Implementation

- The Town shall revise zoning and subdivision regulations to require appropriate setbacks and buffers to utility easements to protect residential development and allow for the proper functioning of the utility.

Goal 6: To develop and maintain a long-range program of effective stormwater management designed to protect its residents from flooding, to control erosion and sedimentation, and to maintain both surface and groundwater quality and quantity.

Policy 6.1 - The Town recognizes the importance of promoting high standards of design for stormwater management systems.

Implementation

- The Town shall explore implementing innovative standards for drainage design utilizing such techniques as LID (low impact development) and flexible paving surface requirements to promote on-site treatment and infiltration where appropriate.
- The Town shall continue to explore improvements to stormwater management systems based on recommendations included in the "South Kingstown Village Study: Villages of Wakefield and Peace Dale."
- The Town shall implement recommendations for best management practices included within the DEM Stormwater Design and Installation Standards Manual (2011), as amended.
- The Town will consider the establishment of standards for minimum rights of way in subdivisions that will accommodate the installation of stormwater management systems and utilities while requiring that pavement widths be the minimum necessary for functional requirements.

Policy 6.2 - The Town supports implementation of the DEM's Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES) Phase II Stormwater Management program.

Implementation

- The Town shall comply with RIPDES Phase II requirements for stormwater management in municipal separate storm sewer systems. This program is intended to improve the quality of receiving waters by reducing the quantity of pollutants discharged during storm events. RIPDES Phase II stormwater regulations also require the inventory of existing municipal stormwater facilities.
- The current six-year CIP identifies, funds, and schedules various drainage improvement projects within the Town. These projects shall continue to be addressed through the CIP process.

Goal 7: To continue the Town's support of a professional police force, dedicated to upholding the law, ensuring the safety and best welfare of the Town's residents, and respecting the rights of all citizens. The Town recognizes that provision of adequate police facilities is vital to the health and safety of its citizens.

Policy 7.1 - The Town supports maintaining an appropriate level of service through the professional law enforcement staff.

Implementation

- The Police Department shall continue to conduct an annual analysis of existing and future needs, in coordination with the writing of the Town Budget and CIP. A more comprehensive analysis shall be performed every five years.
- Annual measurements which will help assess performance shall include such items as number and experience with service calls, crime rate and type, and accident reports. Results of this analysis shall be checked against personnel and equipment.
- Town staff shall continue to assess emergency medical services program needs to ensure that appropriate service levels are met.

Policy 7.2 - The Town will continue to assess the adequacy of police facilities and equipment, including the need to increase off-road patrols.

Implementation

- Equipment purchases shall be made in conformance with the Town's six-year CIP.
- The Town shall consider construction of a separate storage building for evidence processing and evidence storage. This building should be secure, have sophisticated air handling, and include a garage space with lift.

Policy 7.3 - The Town will maintain a level of police performance which meets the Police Chiefs' Association standards.

Implementation

- Such a certification program has been planned and is being considered for adoption by the State. Until the State implements such a program, the South Kingstown Police Department will follow its present internal evaluation process. The Police Department has implemented several of the recommendations made during a recent audit conducted by the RI Interlocal Trust.

Policy 7.4 - The Town will maintain a police presence in the public schools to strengthen relationships between the police department, school staff, and students, and to enforce security, as necessary.

Implementation

- In the context of resource availability, the Police Department shall continue the "Community Works Program" and the "School Resource Officer" programs.
- The Police Department shall investigate flexible funding sources which would benefit the entire department's long-range policing strategies.

Goal 8: To continue to support the concept of a volunteer fire department and to assist the fire districts in their efforts to provide protective services.

Policy 8.1 - The Town recognizes the need for an adequate number of well-trained volunteers for the Union Fire District and Kingston Fire Districts.

Implementation

- In cooperation with the Union and Kingston Fire Districts, the Town will explore the development of a recruitment and incentive based program to attract and retain volunteers for these organizations.
- The Town will encourage the Fire Districts to participate in required training programs to meet state mandates.

Policy 8.2 - The Town's fire districts shall meet the equipment standards promulgated under state law.

Implementation

- The fire districts shall continue efforts to maintain adequate equipment.

Policy 8.3 - The Town supports the efforts of the fire districts to improve their International Organization for Standardization (ISO) ratings and general level of operation.

Implementation

- The "Improvements Statements" written for the Fire Districts by the Insurance Services Office shall be reviewed by the Union and Kingston Fire District administrations to determine if there are cost-effective ways to improve their respective district ratings, which are based on fire suppression capabilities. These reports shall be included in their long-term plans.
- The Town shall evaluate the fire districts' compliance with ISO standards annually to coincide with the annual budgets. The Town will consider preparing a ten-year implementation plan as that is the time interval for ISO evaluation and classification.
- The fire districts shall use the compliance standards to develop their own internal evaluation criteria, to be used annually, for the purpose of assessing existing and future needs.

Goal 9: To provide town residents with the opportunity for a quality education, and superior school facilities.

Policy 9.1 - The high quality of South Kingstown's education program shall be maintained and continually improved.

Implementation

- New programs shall be considered and existing quality shall be maintained.
- The Town shall continue to comply with the Board of Regents standards for education facility construction approval and funding.
- The School Department shall conduct more comprehensive five-year evaluation increments of the Rhode Island Basic Education Program.

Policy 9.2 - The Town supports development or retirement of school facilities to keep pace with changes within the school age population and with the defined educational programs of the school system.

Implementation

- The Town shall address school facility needs through the six-year plans included in the annual CIP.

Goal 10: To maintain a town system of public libraries to meet the diverse needs of our citizens through expanded and improved library services and facilities.

Policy 10.1 - To meet the community needs for library services, the Town will expand and renovate library facilities and parking areas.

Implementation

- Expansion of public service and non-public service areas of the main library in Peace Dale is required to meet the needs of the town-wide system (including the needs of the two branch libraries which cannot be expanded due to property boundary, historic, and structural constraints). A larger youth services room, increased book stack capacity, increased space for public access computers, quiet study rooms and a new public meeting room with a larger seating capacity represent unmet system needs.
- The Library Board wants to resolve the parking situation at Kingston in the best interest of the library and its patrons with the goal of an expanded parking at Kingston.
- The Library Board recognizes that increased parking at Peace Dale is essential to meet the future program needs of the library.

Policy 10.2 - The Town supports compliance with all state requirements and standards including the Office of Library & Information Service's Minimum Standard for Rhode Island Public Libraries, adopted by the Library Board of Rhode Island in 2000.

Implementation

- The Town Library System shall continue to comply with the Office of Library & Information Service standards in order to continue to receive state funding.
- The Library shall continue its present course of annually assessing needs according to internal standards of performance based on actual usage. This annual assessment shall continue to coordinate with assessments for funding through the Town's operating and capital budgets, and grants requirements. Additionally, a more comprehensive review is needed every five years, especially regarding large-scale facility improvements.

Goal 11: To provide the citizens of the Town with a wide range of effective human service programs and facilities, in cooperation with other public, private and non-profit agencies and groups.

Policy 11.1 - The South Kingstown Senior Services Department shall coordinate and centralize senior citizen programs and facilities to offer community-based, rather than institutional, services.

Implementation

- The Senior Services Department shall be a facilitator in coordinating this effort. The Senior Services Center Program's mission is to provide a focal point where adults can access services and programs designed to support their independence, enrich their quality of life, and promote optimal aging. Completion of "The Center" in 2000 enabled consolidation of many senior services including the Adult Day Services Program (not on site), the Senior Nutrition Program, Senior Transportation Program, and the Senior Services Center.
- The Senior Services Center program shall continue the operation and expansion of services, including advocacy and technical assistance, particularly through Hospital Elder Liaison Program with South County Hospital, Seniors Helping Other, Inc., and other ongoing programs. The Senior Services Department's goal is to bring various senior service groups and organizations together to coordinate their actives and integrate their work.
- The Senior Services Department shall expand the Adult Day Services Facility in order to better accommodate the special needs of its senior participants.

Goal 12: The South Kingstown Departments of Parks and Recreation and Senior Services will serve the community by providing enriching recreation experiences and quality facilities to support a healthy environment.

Policy 12.1 - The Senior Services Department will address the need for alternative transportation for programs.

Implementation

- The Senior Services Department shall investigate opportunities to reduce reliance on private transportation through attempting to secure additional use of Senior Services buses; and seek funding opportunities to purchase a twenty passenger van for the Department's use

Policy 12.2 - The Town of South Kingstown will pursue the development of Greenways listed in the Town's Greenways Master Plan

Implementation

- The Town shall pursue development of the following corridors presented in the June, 2002 Greenways Master Plan:
  a. Expansion of the Peace Dale Village Bike Path;
  b. Expansion of the William C. O'Neill Bike Path to include a connection to URI and Peace Dale Village Bike Path;
  c. Expansion of the DuVal Trail;
  d. Expansion of the Saugatucket River trail system; and
  e. Development of the South Shore Beach Trail.

Policy 12.3 - The Department of Parks and Recreation will develop additional indoor recreation space for community activities to support a healthy environment.

Implementation

- The Town will evaluate the appropriate timing for construction of an indoor gymnasium to meet the expanded recreational and program needs of the community. Municipal and school bonds totaling $3.15 million for construction of a new facility were approved by taxpayers in 2004 and 2006. In 2010, the Town purchased 13.5 acres of land known as the former Dominic Savio property which will be land-banked for the present and may be used as the site for the community gymnasium. The gym would be intended for use by both the school and municipal programs. The community gym is included in the Town's Capital Improvement Budget program.
- The Department of Parks and Recreation shall consider expansion of the use of the Peace Dale Office Building for providing community recreation services. The expanded facilities may include an art studio, additional art performance space, and general programming areas.

Policy 12.4 - The Town will assess the potential construction of recreational facilities on the Rose Hill Superfund Solid Waste Area.

Implementation

- The Town and Department of Parks and Recreation shall explore the feasibility of different "best uses" for the site including passive recreational facilities.

Policy 12.5 - The Department of Parks and Recreation will complete improvements to the Neighborhood Guild that will provide additional programming and office space.

Implementation

- The Department of Parks and Recreation will convert third floor storage rooms in The Neighborhood Guild into additional program space.

Policy 12.6 – The Parks and Recreation Department will explore funding opportunities for improvements to and protection of the Town Beach.

Implementation

- The Department of Parks and Recreation will seek funding for the relocation of the Town Beach Pavilion outside of the 500 year flood zone; and explore options for erosion control and mitigation.

Policy 12.7 - The Department of Parks and Recreation will significantly expand youth and teen programming efforts.

Implementation

- The Department of Parks and Recreation shall expand efforts to provide youth and teens positive alternatives for their free time, concentrating on providing activities between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on weekdays and on Friday and Saturday nights.

Policy 12.8 – The Departments of Parks and Recreation and Senior Services will offer on-line registration/reservation capabilities to the public as a more streamlined and efficient customer service function.

Implementation

- The Departments in collaboration with the Information Technology Division will assess service-specific data management applications based on the unique needs of the Department; and select the most appropriate and cost effective tool for effectively managing data and offering on line registration services to the public.

Goal 13: To maintain an effective emergency management response program that recognizes the importance of providing protection to citizens and property through public education, municipal preparedness plans and adequate training of key personnel.

Policy 13.1 - The Town supports an expanded public awareness of potential emergency situations and appropriate citizen response.

Implementation

- The Police Department maintains an ongoing emergency management response program with the RI Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. As issues relating to Homeland Security arise, the Town shall respond in accordance with federal and state protocols.

Policy 13.2 - The Town will ensure that police officers and other key emergency management personnel receive proper training.

Implementation

- The Town shall continue to offer both on- and off-site training and education to ensure that staff members are proficient in the latest programs, protocol, techniques, and methods.

Policy 13.3 - Institute appropriate measures to reduce potential storm damage caused by wind blown trees.

Implementation

- The Town shall re-examine the existing tree trimming program to redirect efforts towards preventative maintenance in areas more likely to suffer storm damage, particularly coastal areas.

Policy 13.4 - The Town will encourage development of programs and policies that foster preventative measures that mitigate potential natural disaster damage.

Implementation

- The Town shall examine its present guidelines and regulations to see where possible measures can be instituted and encouraged to reduce storm damage potential.

Goal 14: To identify constraints to economic development relative to infrastructure, facilities, and services.

Policy 14.1 - The Town recognizes the relationship between adequate infrastructure and economic development potential in the community.

Implementation

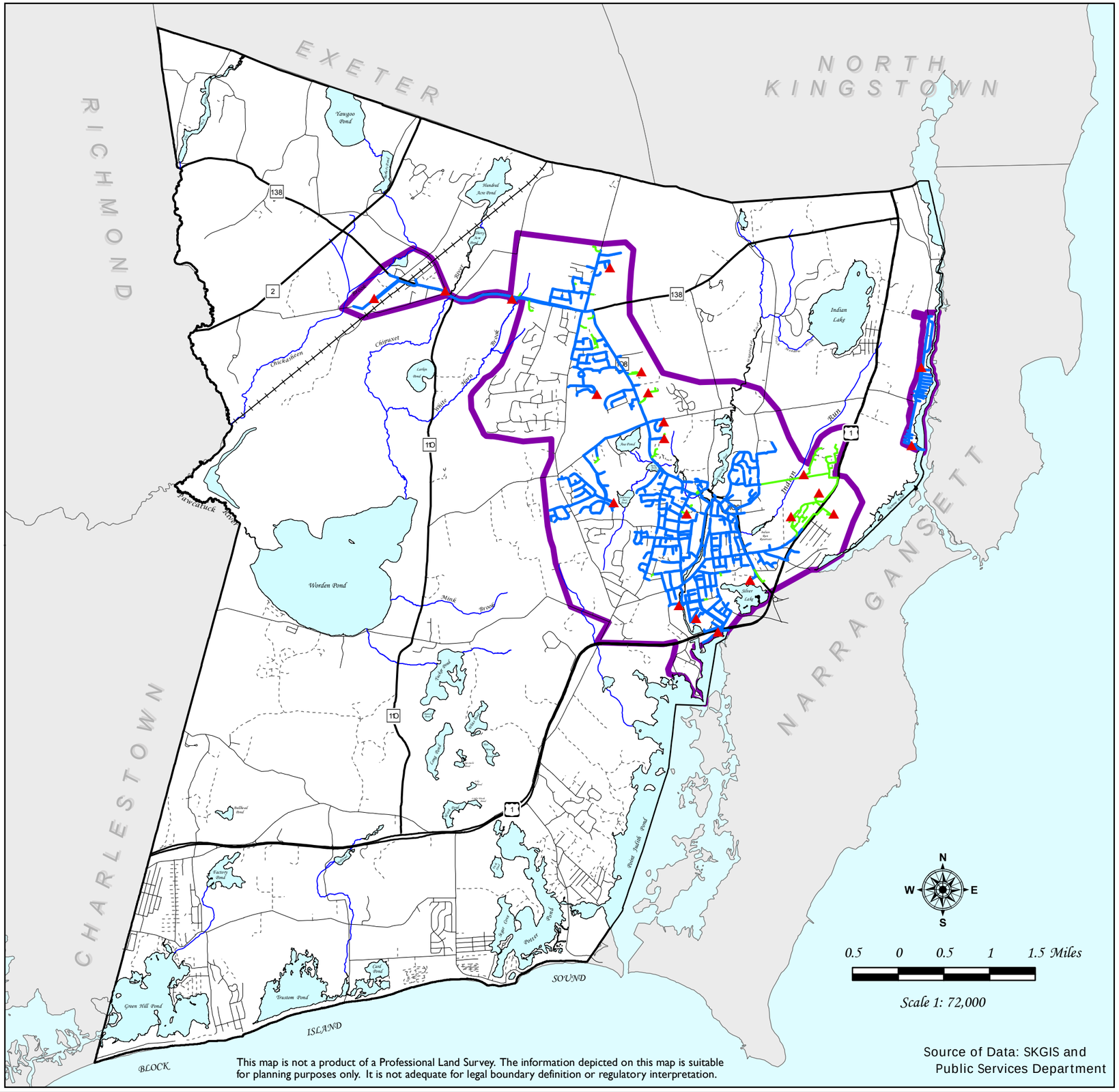
- The Town shall integrate any known limitations on its infrastructure into the local regulatory process by requiring impact analyses where appropriate.
- The Town shall research and pursue funding to assess drainage problems that regularly occur during heavy rain events.
- The Town shall work with URI to continue and expand transportation opportunities for students and staff to access local commercial and service areas.
- The Town shall, through its annual CIP, consider infrastructure upgrades and enhancements that support the economic development needs of the local business community.

- The Town shall continue to actively engage with the South County Hospital to ensure that local policies, infrastructure improvements, and regulations do not hinder initiatives that are consistent with local and regional needs.

Town of South Kingstown

Comprehensive Plan

Sewer Service Areas



This map is not a product of a Professional Land Survey. The information depicted on this map is suitable for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition or regulatory interpretation.

Source of Data: SKGIS and Public Services Department

Sewer Lines (Mains)

- Public
- Private
- Pump Stations
- Future Sewer Service Area

- State / Federal Highway
- Local Roads
- Private Roads
- Railroad
- Lakes and Ponds
- Streams

Map 6.1

Geographic Information System

PL14-18 cpb 1/14

Open Space and Recreation

Open Space and Recreation Element

Introduction

The roles of open space and recreation have evolved within the past decade in South Kingstown. Preservation of open space by the Town and a consortium of federal, state, and private non-profit agencies are helping to maintain the character of the community, protect natural resources, and provide potential passive recreational use. The move to conserve several hundred acres of land through open space acquisitions or leases since the Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1993 has also served as a growth management tool by protecting land from development.

Public park space in the Village of Peace Dale.

As the community grows, the demand for additional and varied recreational opportunities increases. It is the responsibility of the Town to provide recreational opportunities for all citizens regardless of age, interest, or ability. The South Kingstown Parks and Recreation Department's mission is to serve the community by providing enriching recreation activities and quality facilities. The Department's vision statement includes, in part: *"We will improve the health of our citizens through programs that encourage staying active and fit. We will connect all citizens to our community by offering programs that encourage inclusion and participation. Finally, we will provide a wide variety of activities that encourage all segments of our population to use their free time both positively and productively, and promote life-long learning through recreational and cultural programs."*

Open Space and Recreation Achievements

The Town of South Kingstown has continued to meet the following goal established in the 1992 Comprehensive Plan:

> ***To encourage the provision of recreational services and facilities and the preservation of open spaces and natural habitats in order to enhance the physical and mental well-being of the Town's citizens.***

The Town has made great strides in acquiring land for expanding active and passive recreational services, based upon its needs assessment. An aggressive open space acquisition program is ongoing and has its roots in "A Guide for Protecting Open Space in South Kingstown" prepared in May 2000 by the Community Partnership Program of the South Kingstown Land Trust. The goals of this program are to preserve four critical resources: drinking water supplies, valuable natural habitats for plant and natural communities, active agricultural land, and unique places with scenic, cultural, or historic qualities that define the Town. Organizations that are part of the Community Partnership's Land Acquisition Committee—the South Kingstown Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, the Town of South Kingstown, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Narrow River Land Trust, and the RI Department of Environmental Management (DEM)—own and manage over 8,000 acres of open space in South Kingstown.

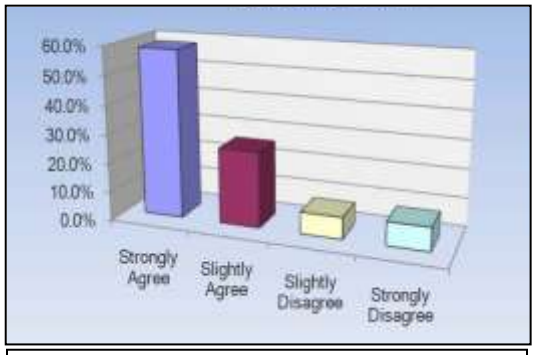
The Town has accomplished the following Open Space and Recreation initiatives:

William C. O'Neill Bike Path near the Village of Wakefield

- The Town has completed construction on Phases I and II of the William C. O'Neill Bike Path providing a total of six miles of new multi-use path from the Kingston Train Station to the Town of Narragansett. This bike path currently serves as an important multi-modal connection between the rail station and the central Villages of Peace Dale and Wakefield. When Phase III is complete, the bike path will connect to Narragansett Pier at the path's easterly terminus.
- The Town has supported the development of footpaths and/or bicycle paths for passive recreation and transportation throughout town.
- Since its inception, the South Kingstown Land Trust has acquired ownership or conservation rights of over 2,440 acres of natural resource lands with over 135 projects representing more than $14 million in donated and purchased value.
- The Town has continued its policy that all new subdivisions should contribute to recreation needs for future residents through land dedication, direct payments, or service cost recovery fees.
- The Parks and Recreation Department has offered at least 100 programs each year from 2005 to 2009.
- The Parks and Recreation Department, as demonstrated by the Capital Improvement Program, has provided an active maintenance and rehabilitation program to upgrade existing sites and facilities.
- The Parks and Recreation Department awarded over $6,800 in financial program scholarships to underprivileged youth in 2009.
- The Town has offered two successful concerts at the Town Beach and a successful outdoor movie program.
- The Saugatucket River Walkway was installed through a joint venture between RIDOT and the Town.

Survey Findings

The South Kingstown Community Survey conducted in 2010 included the following findings regarding Open Space and Recreation:

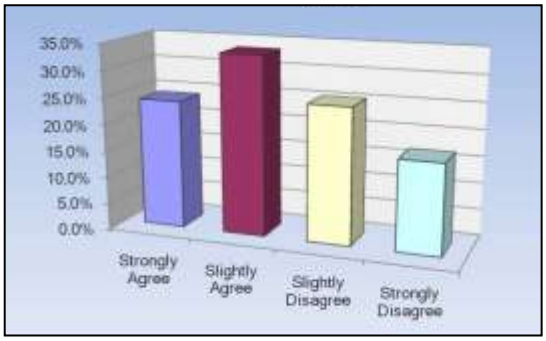


The Town needs to continue to acquire additional lands for conservation and open space preservation.

- While the community is still in support of the acquisition of additional lands for conservation and open space preservation, the number of respondents who strongly agree is slightly down compared to the 2003 survey (58 percent in 2010, 67 percent in 2003). Additionally, the number of respondents who strongly disagree that conservation land should be acquired has increased from 4 percent in 2003 to 8 percent in 2010.
- A new question on the 2010 survey indicates that the community is supportive of acquiring small parcels to provide green space in the village

centers. A total of 78 percent of respondents either strongly agree or slightly agree with this concept.

- In 2010 there was less support for the acquisition of land for recreation facilities compared to the previous two surveys. The combined total for respondents who either strongly or slightly agreed was 57 percent in 2010 and 66 percent in 2003. This is also down from 89 percent of respondents in 1990 who slightly or strongly agreed with a similar question. The 1990 question asked about the acquisition of land for "conservation and recreation use."



The Town needs to continue to acquire additional lands for recreational facilities.

Visioning Process

The visioning process for the Comprehensive Plan Update occurred through a series of information gathering techniques including:

- Two public workshops focused on comprehensive planning issues held on April 6, 2010 and May 24, 2011;
- Informational interviews with key community members and board members;
- Multiple public outreach and engagement events occurring throughout the concurrent Healthy Places by Design grant process;
- The use of Planning Board work sessions to discuss and refine Comprehensive Plan concepts; and
- The use of a project website to provide updates and draft materials to the community.

The following section summarizes the concepts and ideas that emerged from the visioning process regarding Open Space and Recreation. These ideas were organized into two groups: strategies for preserving and maintaining open space; and strategies for improving recreation programming.

<u>Strategies for Preserving and Maintaining Open Space</u>

- Continue to provide educational opportunities for town staff, board and commission members, and citizens regarding the importance of utilizing a watershed-based approach within land conservation planning.
- Continue ongoing land preservation efforts with the Town's Open Space Partnership members.
- Assess and clarify the role of the Conservation Commission in enforcing open space policies and implementation measures contained within the Comprehensive Plan.
- Continue to ensure that open space acquisitions consider the protection of critical habitat and biodiversity throughout town including areas designated by DEM Heritage Program as suitable habitat for rare or unique species.
- Continue to support the South Kingstown Land Trust regarding open space acquisitions especially during periods of limited municipal and state funding for this purpose.
- Strengthen and refine the "Village Model" approach as a means to protect undeveloped lands outside the villages that lie near existing open space and conservation lands.

- Encourage the establishment of "pocket parks" within the village centers where appropriate as means to provide additional amenities within the villages and balance the use of space within these more densely built environments.
- Explore regulations for Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) within the Town or as part of an inter-municipal program to preserve open space and agricultural lands.
- Make agricultural resources a priority in the Comprehensive Plan and resulting land use regulations and open space policies.
- Continue the aggressive pursuit of conservation easements to purchase and secure development rights.
- Identify opportunistic open space acquisitions including any large properties (greater than five acres) or those intended for resale.
- Recognize the important role of open space preservation within the Town's tourism industry.
- Encourage public access to open space parcels where such access will not threaten or jeopardize critical habitats or sensitive environmental values for which the land is being protected.
- Encourage new development to set aside green space that is well designed in terms of pedestrian compatibility and functionality.
- Encourage the development of recreational green spaces within walking distance of all homes in the community.
- Assess existing underutilized open space resources to determine the potential for creating additional passive recreational opportunities.

Strategies for Improving Recreation Programming

- Increase the percentage of funding for recreation programs derived from private and grants funding requests.
- Increase awareness of financial aid and scholarship opportunities for recreation throughout the community.
- Improve the Recreation Department's ability to manage and complete projects in-house, through improved coordination with other town departments and outside agencies.
- Complete the fundraising and construction for the Town's first dog park.
- Develop opportunities for community groups and agencies to take on a more direct role and involvement in community maintenance and service functions.
- Develop an improved relationship and support network between the Recreation Department and local businesses.
- Expand public events and recreation opportunities at the Town Beach.
- Implement a better defined and more functional recreation volunteer program.
- Continue to support the ongoing rehabilitation of the Village Green, Neighborhood Guild, and Community Recreation Center.
- Maintain the Interactive Map of Recreational Facilities to allow residents and visitors to find recreational opportunities existing in the Town.
- Support the ongoing process of assessing and improving programming for existing recreational facilities.
- Ensure that recreational facilities and programs adequately address the needs of all user groups.
- Promote existing and create additional recreational opportunities for teens and older children.
- Create educational programs to give students mapping skills using the Town's maps and the various recreation locations in the community.

Open Space and Recreation Vision

The Town shall continue to work with the Community Partnership to protect open space and enhance the quality of life through growth management, protection of groundwater, protection of habitat, and the preservation of scenic vistas. Open space protection should be considered in all areas of town including its village centers where small-scale, passive recreation and nature observation is more accessible to local residents. The Town shall provide active recreation opportunities to preserve and enhance the health of all citizens. Recreation facilities and programs shall be accessible to the population (and reflect the needs of growing residential areas) and respond to the changing demographics of the community. Decisions on open space acquisition shall be made through an economic analysis that reflects the benefit to the Town in avoiding the need to provide municipal services for residential development. This economic analysis shall also account for purchase price, loss of tax revenue to the Town, property operation and maintenance costs, and the loss of future development value.

Open Space and Recreation Action Plan

To encourage the provision of recreational services and facilities and the preservation of open spaces and natural habitats in order to enhance the physical and mental well-being of the Town's citizens.

Goal 1: To acquire land for open space and conservation in order to maintain the rural character of the community.

Policy 1.1 - The Town shall continue to preserve land which is primarily undeveloped and which consists of open, agricultural, or littoral property, including existing and future well fields and aquifer recharge areas, fresh and saltwater marshes and adjoining uplands, barrier beaches, wildlife habitats, land providing access to or views of the ocean, harbors and ponds, land for unpaved bicycling, hiking paths, future passive recreational use, and agricultural use.

Implementation

- Town shall continue to implement the Open Space Project Funding Policy.
- The Town shall continue to utilize "*A Guide for Protecting Open Space in South Kingstown"* prepared by the Community Partnership Program of the South Kingstown Land Trust in evaluating potential land acquisitions or development rights purchases.
- The Town shall participate in acquisition of land in fee simple or in conservation and preservation restrictions on real property.
- The Town shall continue to utilize funds generated through the Fair Share Development Fee (collected at the time a building permit is issued for new residential construction and assessed as outlined in the annual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), for the purchase and/or development of open space, conservation, park and recreational land.
- The Town shall document the economic impact of open space acquisition by indicating the number of housing units prevented, how many students were avoided in the public school system, and the estimated lost tax revenue (both prior to acquisition and if residentially developed). The economic assessment shall include the cost of annual maintenance of the property and include a plan to maintain the property as open space.
- The Town shall continue to provide educational opportunities for town staff, board and commission members, and citizens regarding the importance of utilizing a watershed-based approach within land conservation planning.
- The Town shall consider the connectivity and accessibility of open space and greenway

projects in its criteria for acquisition.

- The Town shall actively coordinate land acquisition and development with such private, non-profit organizations as the R.I. Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, and the South Kingstown and Narrow River Land trusts as well as with public agencies which are actively pursuing similar goals. The Town will encourage development or protection of community spaces on private, state, and federal properties which will enhance leisure experiences for local and non-local residents without detracting from the primary goals of the organizations.
- The Town shall continue to secure state and federal funding for open space acquisition.

Policy 2.1 – To create a system of greenways throughout town to protect and preserve open space and natural resources, to ensure the connectivity of these resources, and to increase accessibility for all residents.

Implementation

- The Town shall encourage accessible open space and recreation facilities within walking distance of all homes in the community to support a healthy living environment.
- The Town shall preserve the following greenways which follow natural geologic or geographic features: Saugatucket River, Marina Park, Upper Salt Pond, Matunuck Hills kettle pond/moraine area, Chipuxet River corridor (Hundred Acre Pond - Thirty Acre Pond - Great Swamp - Worden Pond), Queens River corridor, Narrow River watershed in coordination with similar greenway areas in Narragansett and North Kingstown, and South Shore Area as identified in the South Shore Management Plan.
- The Town shall continue to ensure that identified greenways will be protected from the adverse effects of future growth and development through the zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations, land use policies, and open space acquisition.
- The Town shall continue to implement its Greenways Master Plan. The following greenways shall be considered high priority resources for expansion, preservation and maintenance:

  - Expansion of the William C. O'Neill Bike Path to include a connection to the University of Rhode Island and Narragansett Pier.
  - Expansion of the DuVal Trail
  - Development of the Saugatucket River trail system
  - Development of the South Shore Beach Trail

- The Town shall amend regulations to encourage new development to set aside green space that is well-designed in terms of pedestrian compatibility and functionality and, where possible, strengthens the Town's existing greenways network.

Policy 1.3 – The Town supports preservation of open space within its villages areas, recognizing that smaller parcels are valuable to preserve habitat, to support a healthy environment, and to improve the quality of life of village residents.

Implementation

- The Town shall amend the Open Space Project Funding Policy to include smaller parcels in its criteria.

- The Town shall actively pursue specific small parcels within its village areas for the establishment of "pocket parks" and landscaped areas where appropriate.

Policy 1.4 – The Town shall investigate means to provide open space buffers between current commercial and residential uses.

Implementation

- The Town shall identify specific parcels abutting existing commercial uses that may be used as a buffer and explore the options to purchase or conserve the land for open space or recreational uses.

Goal 2: To acquire land for expanding active and passive recreational services based upon the current needs assessment.

Policy 2.1 – The Town shall provide active and passive recreational services to support a healthy environment and to meet town, state and federal requirements.

Implementation

- The Town shall pursue available grant funding through such State and Federal sources as the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM), the Rhode Island Water Resources Board, and the Federal Highway Administration.
- The Town shall pursue projects that build on its existing infrastructure in order to support new recreation resources that are well connected to existing bike paths, foot paths, parks, open spaces, and other recreational services and facilities.

Goal 3: To ensure public access to publicly-owned and controlled open space and to all important public natural and cultural resources for all citizens and to protect all current and historic rights-of-way which ensure access to these areas.

Policy 3.1 – The Town shall protect all current and historic rights of way to natural and cultural resources.

Implementation

- The Town shall work with the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) to identify and protect rights-of-way to coastal areas.
- The Town shall work to educate adjacent landowners about public access to the shore via paper streets and other deeded access ways in proximity to their properties.

Goal 4: To protect all beach areas for pedestrian-based recreation, to preserve the open-space character of the shorefront, and to protect the fragile ecology of the dunes.

Policy 4.1 – The Town shall continue to manage beaches under its jurisdiction for the benefit of the community.

Implementation

- The Town shall place controls or other obstacles to motor vehicular traffic along the access-ways of ocean beaches which are under town control.

Policy 4.2 – The Town shall support public access and preservation of natural habitat for beaches not under its jurisdiction.

Implementation

- The Town shall encourage open access to ocean beaches within the Town by all citizens and will discourage private enclaves and the erection and/or replacement of fences and barriers.
- The Town shall continue to press the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to find ways to provide public access and enjoyment of Moonstone Beach, in accordance with provisions of the State Constitution, and to ensure equal protection for the natural habitat.

Goal 5: To meet changing recreation needs of the community in accordance with town, state and federal standards.

Policy 5.1 – The Town shall continue to use existing vacant and/or underutilized town-owned lands to meet recreation and open space needs.

- The Town shall identify specific town-owned lands for the potential conversion to recreation and open space facilities.
- To service the northeast area of South Kingstown, the Town will investigate the development of community park facilities within the reclaimed areas at the Rose Hill Transfer Station.
- The Town shall expand public events and recreation opportunities at the Town Beach.
- The Town shall complete construction of the Town's first dog park.

Policy 5.2 – The Town shall continue to use school properties to provide recreation space within the limits of safety, maintenance, security and contractual issues.

Implementation

- The School and Parks and Recreation Departments shall coordinate activities, especially related to construction of new school facilities, so that they may be designed to maximize land utilization and minimize municipal financial resources for maximum recreational benefit to the community.

Policy 5.3 – The Town shall assess a fee on new residential development for the purchase and development of new municipal parkland.

Implementation

- The Town shall continue to implement its Fair Share Development Fee program as revised annually based upon the analysis contained in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Policy 5.4 – The Parks and Recreation Department will develop additional indoor recreation space for community activities to support a healthy environment.

Implementation

- In cooperation with the School Department, the Town will explore developing a community facility that will include a gymnasium and youth and teen programming areas.
- Research the establishment of additional indoor ice facilities in South Kingstown.

Policy 5.5 – The Parks and Recreation Department shall continue to expand youth and teen programming efforts.

Implementation

- The Parks and Recreation Department shall continue to expand efforts to provide youth and teens positive alternatives for their free time, with a focus on providing activities between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on weekdays and on Friday and Saturday nights.
- The Parks and Recreation Department shall continue to partner with other community recreation providers to assess and improve programming for youth and teens. This will include providing capital improvements, programmatic emphasis, and promotional efforts to ensure that facilities and programs adequately address the community's needs.
- The Parks and Recreation Department shall partner with other community recreation providers to increase awareness of financial aid and scholarship opportunities for recreation programming throughout the community. This will include evaluating and implementing new methods for communicating financial aid opportunities.

Goal 6: To maintain active recreation areas and other properties under the Parks and Recreation Department jurisdiction to meet the needs of all users.

Policy 6.1 – The Town shall continue to provide an active maintenance and rehabilitation program and schedule to maintain and upgrade existing sites and facilities to ensure safe and high quality experience for all users.

Implementation

- The Town shall continue to assess and inventory its existing sites and facilities to evaluate the needs for facility upgrades to meet the needs of all users.
- The Town shall continue to schedule maintenance and rehabilitation programs in the annual CIP.
- The Town shall explore opportunities for community groups and agencies to take on a more direct role and involvement in maintenance and service functions.
- The Town shall outsource a majority of non-park facilities as outlined in the CIP. This outsourcing will provide town maintenance crews with additional capacity to absorb the new facilities.
- The Town shall pursue state, federal, and private funding opportunities for maintenance.

Policy 6.2 – The Town shall improve recreational facilities to meet the current and projected needs of all users.

Implementation

- The Town shall improve the accessibility of the town-owned recreation facilities, where appropriate, to ensure Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility to Parks and Recreation Department activities.
- The Town shall complete improvements to the Neighborhood Guild to provide additional programming and office space.

Goal 7: To support public awareness of recreation programs and to provide a means for citizen and stakeholder input on recreation policy.

Policy 7.1 –The Town shall continue to sponsor public workshops, seminars, and other outreach tools to help inform its citizenry of recreation programs and provide a means for citizen and stakeholder input.

Implementation

- The Town Council will appoint, where appropriate, special committees from neighborhood groups or special user groups to assist in the preparation of development plans for proposed park and recreation facilities.
- The Town shall encourage improved coordination and mutual support between local businesses, recreation providers, and the Recreation Department.
- The Town shall continue to explore and maintain the use of innovative tolls to raise awareness of existing recreation resources and increase public accessibility. This will include the development of and updates to an interactive web-based map that will provide citizens with a mix of visual and narrative information regarding recreation resources.

Circulation

Circulation Element

Introduction

The Circulation Element encompasses all modes of transportation: vehicular, public transit with bus and rail, bicycles and pedestrians, as well as associated elements of parking. A map of the Town's circulation system is provided in Map 8.1. The Town's general objective for the Circulation Element is to provide safe and efficient access within and through the Town for all modes in a balanced fashion while maintaining the Town's rural qualities and scenic aesthetics. Excessive traffic volumes and congestion are one of the key components that may diminish the quality of life in South Kingstown and continue to be one of the greatest concerns of citizens. Traffic volumes in town reflect not only population growth in the community, but increases in traffic generated by the University of Rhode Island (URI) and by summer beach traffic.

William C. O'Neill Bike Path in the Village of Peace Dale

"The South Kingstown Greenways Master Plan", completed in 2001, identified corridors of protected open space managed for conservation, recreation, and/or transportation purposes. The Greenways Master Plan was developed to capitalize on opportunities to provide walking/biking/hiking connections to the Town's schools, parks, conservation areas, historic structures, business districts, and neighborhoods. Under the guidance of this Plan, the Town continues to identify and preserve greenway areas to create a system of green trails and guide the future growth of the Town.

Raised crossing median along Main Street in the Village of Wakefield

The Town has continued to promote a "Village Model" approach to growth management in order to support the continuation of a pedestrian-scaled development pattern. Through the ongoing development of Village Plans, such as the "South Kingstown Village Study: Villages of Wakefield and Peace Dale", the Town continues to prioritize pedestrian improvements in its Villages to maintain their economic and cultural vitality. One of the primary objectives of these Village Plans is to identify areas of opportunity for enhancing the pedestrian, bike, and public transit networks to support a multi-modal approach to transportation and provide an appealing pedestrian environment. This objective is achieved through understanding each village's unique existing conditions and prioritizing improvements and investments appropriately.

Circulation Achievements

The Town of South Kingstown has continued to meet the goal established in the 1992 Comprehensive Plan:

> ***To integrate safe transportation modes in the Town without disrupting the aesthetic, environmental, and cultural values of the community.***

Over the past two decades, the Town, in cooperation with the State Department of Transportation have completed numerous projects, and achieved progress in addressing multi-modal opportunities while attempting to mitigate growing traffic volumes:

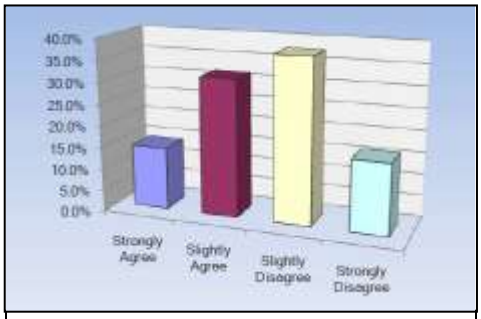
- Similar to the State DOT, the Town utilizes its own Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) to prioritize local roadway reconstruction and public works projects based on condition, function, and access to public facilities. The TIP is implemented through the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Notable local projects completed include: Campus Avenue road reconstruction and sidewalks, Curtis Corner Road reconstruction (Route 108 to South Road), Broad Rock Road reconstruction (Saugatucket Road to Route 138), Saugatucket Road reconstruction (Broad Rock Road to North Road), Pond Street reconstruction, Moonstone Beach Road (portion) and Liberty Lane (portion).
- The Town has continued to implement the 2001 South Kingstown Greenways Master Plan by amending Comprehensive Plan policies and strategies for greenway and bike path expansion.
- Completion of Phase II and III of the William C. O'Neill Bike Path from Peace Dale south through to Narragansett.
- The State, in cooperation with the Town installed 18 new crosswalks in the Villages of Peace Dale and Wakefield through funding received from the State's Transportation Improvement Plan. These crosswalks incorporate the use of textured, stamped concrete with a red-brick pattern for Wakefield and granite stonework for Peace Dale. This project also included the reconstruction of Railroad Street in Peace Dale (new pavement and sidewalks).
- The Town leveraged funding from the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) to complete paving and construct a comfort station within the Intermodal Parking Lot in the Village of Wakefield.
- The Town has maintained an active dialogue with RIDOT concerning local transportation needs and priorities. This has included annual meetings with senior DOT design personnel and town staff to review the status of local projects on the State's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and stress local circulation improvement needs.

Survey Findings

The South Kingstown Community Survey conducted in 2010 included the following findings regarding Circulation issues:

- There were mixed opinions from respondents on whether the current conditions of transportation infrastructure are adequate to handle the Town's current and future needs. Approximately 46 percent of respondents agreed (either strongly or slightly) that the current conditions are adequate while 54 percent disagree (either strongly or slightly). Only 14 percent of respondents strongly agree that the current conditions are adequate.

- The large majority of respondents feel that the Town should encourage alternative forms or transportation other than the automobile. Over 65 percent of respondents strongly agree with encouraging alternative form of transportation while an additional 23 percent slightly agree.
- The majority of respondents also feel that the Town should help reduce the need for commuting by encouraging home occupations and telecommuting. Approximately 85 percent of respondents agree (either strongly or slightly) that the Town should encourage these non-commuting employment options.



Current conditions of transportation infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, bike paths, etc.) are adequate to handle the Town's current and future needs.

Visioning Process

The visioning process for the Comprehensive Plan Update occurred through a series of information gathering techniques including:

- Two public workshops focused on comprehensive planning issues held on April 6, 2010 and May 24, 2011;
- Informational interviews with key community members and board members;
- Multiple public outreach and engagement events occurring throughout the concurrent Healthy Places by Design grant process;
- The use of Planning Board work sessions to discuss and refine Comprehensive Plan concepts; and
- The use of a project website to provide updates and draft materials to the community.

The following section summarizes the concepts and ideas that emerged from the visioning process regarding Circulation. These ideas were organized into the following three groups: Circulation Strategies within the Villages, Improving Circulation Standards and Practices, and Identifying Opportunities for Improvement.

<u>Circulation Strategies within the Villages</u>

- Strengthen and refine the "Village Model" approach within all planning documents, and specifically within the Comprehensive Plan Update, to support the continuation of a pedestrian-scaled development pattern.
- Prioritize roadway and sidewalk improvements and investments within the village areas and along major gateway routes to ensure accessibility.
- Focus improvements to public transit facilities and services within the villages to support a walkable, multi-modal approach to transportation and to strengthen connections within and between villages.
- Review and consider revisions to the regulatory and planning framework surrounding the Village of West Kingston with regard to potential future improvements for commuter rail service at Kingston Station as it relates to land use, transportation, and natural and cultural resources in the area.
- Incorporate design features in the forthcoming Route 138 reconstruction project (Route 108 to Route 2) that will improve pedestrian/bicycle safety and convenience, calm and mitigate traffic

congestion in the Villages of Kingston and West Kingston. Transportation issues in this area will become increasingly important in light of potential URI expansions and the possible establishment of commuter rail service in West Kingston.

- Continue to explore alternative commuting strategies and routes to and from URI to lessen University-related traffic impacts on the core areas of Kingston and West Kingston.
- Provide greater accessibility to the William C. O'Neill Bike Path from URI Campus vicinity and Kingston Village.
- Encourage projects that promote a "park once" strategy and provide the ability to walk to multiple destinations for shopping or services.
- Explore the potential for expanding public trolley services throughout South Kingstown with a focus on connecting the village areas. The Town will access the feasibility of new routes for trolley services based on desired destinations identified in "South Kingstown: Designing a Healthier Community" and supporting project materials.
- Highlight the importance of pedestrians and bicycles in transportation planning in order to reduce or calm traffic, provide additional access options, and enhance community character.

Improving Circulation Standards and Design

- Promote innovative standards for high quality roadway design utilizing such techniques as Complete Streets design, LID (low impact development) and flexible paving surface requirements, where appropriate. The use of these practices must become the norm rather than an option.
- Provide training and education to the Planning Board on to the evaluation of potential traffic impacts and how a meaningful traffic assessment is properly performed. The Planning Board must be able to decipher and act on a substandard Level of Service (LOS) studies and other traffic analyses provided by applicants.
- Revise roadway design standards to incorporate traffic calming elements.
- Incorporate traffic calming features and multi-modal considerations into local road rehabilitation/reconstruction projects.
- Ensure that state and local projects appropriately consider pedestrian and bicycle safety and circulation needs.
- Continue to maintain scenic roadways and critical gateways within town as cultural resources with a focus on preventing intensive development and preserving farmland and open space.
- Promote a "Complete Streets" approach to transportation planning as supported by the South Kingstown Town Council Resolution. Complete Streets is defined as a comprehensive approach to transportation planning that seeks to account for the needs of all users when considering roadway design and improvements, including pedestrians, bikers, transit users and drivers. For a set of specific standards relating to Complete Streets, the Town will reference the Institute of Transportation Engineers report "Designing Walkable Urban Thoroughfares: A Context Sensitive Approach" where appropriate.
- Encourage design standards for infrastructure improvements regarding pedestrian and bicycle circulation for both on-site facilities and connections to adjoining neighborhoods and villages.
- Require that new developments be designed to increase connectivity to adjoining neighborhoods and villages.

Identifying Opportunities for Improvement

- Continue to partner with the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) to maintain continuity of existing transit services, identify potential improvements and explore funding opportunities for improving bus shelters under the State's Transit Enhancement Fund.
- Continue to partner with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) to move forward with progressive traffic calming and pedestrian-scaled improvements in the Town.
- Evaluate the potential for improvements along Old Tower Hill Road between Route 1 and Dale Carlia Corner to install a green boulevard median with the capacity to manage and treat stormwater.
- Explore improvements to address the lack of attractive, human-scaled pedestrian connections between shopping areas on Old Tower Hill and Kingstown Roads and the core areas of the Villages of Wakefield and Peace Dale.
- Consider and plan for emergency response needs in the design and construction of transportation improvement projects.
- Continue to build on the successes of the William C. O'Neill Bike Path by moving forward with signage improvements, increasing bike/pedestrian friendly connections to the path and providing for accessibility to the path from existing commercial nodes along the bike path corridor.
- Consider the development of new bike paths and/or extensions to existing bike paths to increase connections with the regional system
- Work with the Washington County Regional Planning Council to prioritize and address regional transportation needs in the State's TIP.
- Encourage large-scale infrastructure upgrades to improve pedestrian conditions and community character on Old Tower Hill Road. Collaborate with area business owners, RIDOT, and other interested parties to define a vision for Old Tower Hill Road and Dale Carlia Corners. This effort will focus on strategies for increasing pedestrian access and improving building and site design aesthetics.

Circulation Vision

The Town recognizes that an efficient, safe, and multi-modal transportation system improves the quality of life and health of citizens and provides connections between neighborhoods, villages, shopping areas, and community facilities including schools, community centers, and beaches. Despite our dependence on the private automobile, by providing attractive and safe bike paths, greenway connections, sidewalks, commuter rail service, and improved public transit service, the traffic burden on local roadways may be reduced. The Town encourages the "Village Model" approach to shaping future land use patterns in a way that is complementary to this diverse set of circulation options. Paved shoulders should be considered in many roadway construction and upgrade projects to facilitate bicycle travel in areas with higher levels of automobile traffic. The Town recognizes its partnership with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, the University of Rhode Island as well as environmental (Audubon Society, Sierra Club for example) and health based (RI Lung Association) non-profit organizations in many circulation initiatives and will continue to work with them to improve safety and accessibility for residents, visitors, and students.

Circulation Action Plan

To integrate safe transportation modes in the Town without disrupting the aesthetic, environmental and cultural values of the community.

Goal 1 – To encourage multi-modal transportation opportunities throughout town to support a healthy, equitable transportation system for all residents including seniors, youth and low-income populations who may not have equal access to personal car transport.

Policy 1.1 - The Town shall make every effort to encourage the viability of public transit use as an alternative to the single-occupant vehicle as a means of transportation.

Implementation

- The Town shall work with RIPTA, RIDOT and AMTRAK to encourage public transportation usage by local residents, businesses, visitors and URI staff and students.
- The Town shall encourage RIPTA and RIDOT to devise and implement improvements to public transit facilities and services within the and among the village areas in a manner that supports a walkable, multi-modal approach to transportation.
- The Town shall encourage use of improved RIPTA service by students and staff between URI and surrounding shopping opportunities.
- The Town shall encourage RIPTA to provide FLEX or regularly scheduled service to social service and mental health offices in South Kingstown, Charlestown, and Narragansett. This is especially important for local residents who are transit dependent.
- The Town, in cooperation with RIDOT and RIDEM, shall encourage the use of shuttle buses to the beach areas during summer months in an effort to reduce traffic congestion on Route 1.
- The Town will continue to support the South Kingstown "Trolley Program" as a creative alternative transit program that combines congestion mitigation, local economic development and regional tourism promotion. The Town and "Trolley Program" providers will assess the feasibility of new routes for trolley service based on recommendations and outreach outcomes defined in "South Kingstown: Designing a Healthier Community."
- The Town shall consider the potential for state-funded trolley service in Wakefield as an economic development incentive as part of downtown revitalization. RIPTA should be encouraged to provide appropriately designed bus shelters at popular bus stops.

Policy 1.2 – The Town shall prepare for the possibility of commuter rail service to Kingston Station to augment AMTRAK service.

Implementation

- The Town shall review use of Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) commuter rail service at Wickford Junction by town residents and assist RIDOT in assessing the demand for the anticipated extension of commuter rail service to Kingston.
- The Town shall solicit technical assistance from the Statewide Planning Program relative to the analysis of land use regulations in West Kingston given the potential for commuter rail service to Kingston Station.
- The Town shall work with RIDOT to determine the potential demand for commuter rail

service to points south of town, (Westerly, RI and New London CT).
- The Town shall continue their involvement with URI in discussions of an alternative MBTA station at the university.

Policy 1.3 – The Town shall facilitate pedestrian improvements throughout the community to encourage walking as a healthier, more sustainable option to the single occupant vehicle.

Implementation

- The Town shall continue to maintain existing sidewalks and to construct new sidewalks where needed. The Town shall encourage construction of sidewalks on collector type roads and within a half-mile radius of schools. The Town shall encourage the connection of sidewalks and/or bicycle paths within and between new subdivisions.
- The Town shall continue to evaluate and inventory the conditions of existing and potential pedestrian networks to establish priority improvement areas. The Town will work with applicable organizations community groups to conduct pedestrian inventories as defined in "South Kingstown: Designing a Healthier Community" and subsequent engagement efforts.
- New sidewalk construction shall include provisions for wheelchair ramp access in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- The Town shall continue to establish well-defined crosswalk pavement markings and enforce regulations for motorists to STOP for pedestrians in crosswalks.
- The Town shall promote pedestrian safety and connectivity in village areas through encouraging traffic calming and street crossing improvements where appropriate on state right-of-ways such as bump-outs, mid-crossing signage, mid-crossing refuge island, raised crosswalks, chatter strips, and ladder striping of crosswalks. The Town shall consider related improvements to striping, signage and other non-structural treatments for town roads where appropriate.
- The Town shall advocate for safe, human-scaled pedestrian connections between businesses on Old Tower Road and Kingstown Road. These connections should be attractively landscaped and properly maintained.
- In accordance with the "Town of South Kingstown's New Sidewalk Policy" (adopted 9/24/01) the Town shall continue to implement sidewalk construction and improvements through the Capital Improvement Plan. To improve safety, sidewalks should be considered on Route 108 from Curtis Corner north to Route 138.
- The Town shall pursue partnerships and programming that support safe walking to school such as the Annual Walk to School Day.

Policy 1.4 – The Town shall facilitate bicycle improvements throughout the community to encourage biking as a healthier, more sustainable option to the single-occupant vehicle.

Implementation

- The Town shall encourage the use of bicycles and, where feasible, may request that RIDOT add bicycle lanes on all new or upgraded state roads. Where feasible, bicycle lanes will be added to existing town-owned collector roads.
- A network of bicycle and footpaths shall be developed to encourage alternative transportation modes in the central areas of town.
- The Town shall continue to evaluate and inventory the conditions of existing and potential

bicycle networks to establish priority improvement areas. The Town will work with applicable organizations community groups to conduct pedestrian inventories as defined by "South Kingstown: Designing a Healthier Community" and subsequent engagement efforts.

- The Town shall continue to identify and support improvements to the William C. O'Neill Bike Path such as implementing signage improvements and increasing bike/pedestrian friendly connections to the path.
- The Town shall work to ensure that bike paths are continuous to avoid piecemeal, segmented construction with potentially dangerous on-road sections.
- The Town shall continue to implement the recommendations of the 2001 South Kingstown Greenways Master Plan through the CIP.
- The Town shall inventory existing bicycle racks for public facilities and the William C. O'Neill Bicycle Path and compile a strategy to augment this system using town budget resources, sponsorships/donations, new developments and redevelopments, and grant funding mechanisms.
- The Town shall encourage businesses to install bike-friendly features, especially in village areas and those businesses that abut the bike path.
- The Town shall identify appropriate locations for and provide attractive bicycle parking facilities near municipal buildings and open spaces that serve the general public on a daily basis.
- The Town shall amend regulations to require the installation of attractive bicycle facilities for residential developments of six units or greater or for any commercial development requiring development plan review.

Policy 1.5 – The Town shall continue to implement improvements on municipally owned roadways and bridges to improve safety and capacity.

Implementation

- The Town shall continue to assess its transportation infrastructure needs through its Transportation Improvement Program.
- The Town shall continue to implement the recommendations of the South Kingstown Transportation Improvement Program through the CIP.
- The Town shall evaluate transportation needs and potential improvements relative to emergency response.

Goal 2 – To promote street design that is safe, inviting, attractive, and supports healthy, active modes of transportation.

Policy 2.1 – The Town recognizes that street design must account for all users in order to provide a safe and balanced transportation system.

Implementation

- The Town shall explore regulation amendments to encourage new development, redevelopment, and roadway improvements that are consistent with the Complete Streets concept as supported by the South Kingstown Town Council Resolution. The Town will reference the Institute of Transportation Engineers report "Designing Walkable Urban Thoroughfares: A Context Sensitive Approach" for Complete Streets where appropriate

- The Town shall coordinate with RIDOT to encourage the Complete Streets concept as the basis for street design on state transportation and infrastructure related projects as appropriate.
- The Town shall work with RIDOT to evaluate improvements along Old Tower Hill Road between Route 1 and Dale Carlia Corner to support a safe, attractive, human-scaled environment to encourage pedestrian connectivity within the area.
- The Town shall implement traffic calming strategies to improve safety and reduce traffic speed where warranted.

Policy 2.2 – The Town of South Kingstown recognizes the importance of proper street lighting for public safety.

Implementation

- The Traffic and Transportation Review Committee will review proposals to upgrade areas with inadequate and/or nonexistent street lighting based upon the following criteria, and street lighting in other areas will be discouraged:
    - Locations with a relatively high accident rate;
    - Locations with a relatively high crime rate;
    - Locations with a concentration of senior citizens or handicapped residents such as elderly housing projects or nursing homes; and,
    - Areas of special or unusual character (e.g. village centers, community centers, churches or schools).
- The Town shall require that new or upgraded street lighting for parking lots and other private development to be shielded downward to minimize glare in the night sky.

Goal 3 – To ensure that circulation improvements protect the quality of life in the community.

Policy 3.1 - The Town will periodically review its Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations to ensure that the circulation goals and policies are reflected.

Implementation

- The Town shall amend its Zoning Ordinance to provide for shared parking areas in appropriate districts and to permit parking on adjacent or nearby land.
- The Town shall establish flexible standards for roadway/driveway construction, including widths and type of material, in an effort to minimize the extent of impervious surfaces, reduce construction costs and encourage energy conservation.
- The Town shall explore amending its Subdivision and Land Development Regulations to incorporate innovative standards for low impact development in roadway design and stormwater management practices.
- The Town shall develop mechanisms for measuring and accounting for the cumulative impacts of development regarding transportation improvements and addressing these impacts within the development review process. The Town shall formalize this metric within regulations that will specify new requirements for applicants and provide clear decision criteria for review authorities.
- The Town shall review the need to establish a maximum length of road with a cul-de-sac.
- The Town shall explore amending regulations to incorporate standards for increasing pedestrian access and connectivity between adjoining commercial properties and between

commercial properties and surrounding residential neighborhoods in a coordinated manner.

Policy 3.2 - The Town will encourage an energy-efficient pattern of development which avoids urban sprawl and scattered land development. The Town endorses a Land Use Plan having a concentration of population and services in a central core area.

Implementation

- The Town shall pursue development patterns in peripheral lands outside of the Wakefield - Peace Dale - Kingston core which discourage major population growth.

Policy 3.3 - The Town supports minimizing the use of oil and salts on roads especially in environmentally sensitive areas except where essential for public safety.

Implementation

- The Town shall work with RIDOT to reduce the amount of salt and oil added to the roads.

Policy 3.4 - The Town shall promote the highest aesthetic standards for roadway design and visual quality along major roads.

Implementation

- The Town shall continue to pursue the designation of the entire length of Route 1 within the Town as a state recognized scenic highway. Following the potential designation as a scenic highway, the Town shall consider adoption of a management plan to address issue such as access, buffers, and aesthetics.
- The Town shall promote the phasing out of existing billboards along all roadways in the Town, with maximum application of the legal powers it may have to do so.
- The Town shall continue to prohibit the construction of new billboards throughout the Town.
- The Town shall continue its street tree planting program where appropriate and shall retain existing significant trees when constructing new roadways and sidewalks. Street trees are recognized as an important element in supporting a healthy, walkable environment.
- The Town shall consider the option of providing underground utilities where feasible on all new or reconstructed state or local streets or highways.

Goal 4 – To work with state and federal agencies to improve safety and accessibility for residents, visitors, and students.

Policy 4.1 - The Town will continue to improve its policy of coordination with RIDOT on state transportation projects, by maintaining contact with RIDOT during all phases of planning, design and construction. The Town will strongly encourage RIDOT to utilize flexible road design standards that provide an appropriate fit to the community.

Implementation

- The Town shall insist on its rights of equal partnership with the state authorities.

- The Town shall continue to collaborate with the RIDOT to enhance roadway conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists in future transportation and infrastructure related projects.

Policy 4.2 – The Town shall continue to solicit state assistance for transportation improvements through Statewide Planning Program's Transportation Improvement Program.

Implementation

- The Town shall work with state agencies including RIDOT and RIDEM for funding enhancement projects, bicycle path and greenway projects, roadway upgrade projects, and other transportation improvements in town.
- The Town shall research potential state/federal resources to fund the realignment of Matunuck Beach Road to protect the South Shore Water System's 12-inch main and to maintain the primary evacuation route for residents.

Policy 4.3 – The Town shall require that URI implement traffic reduction programs and traffic management practices to mitigate traffic congestions on local roads.

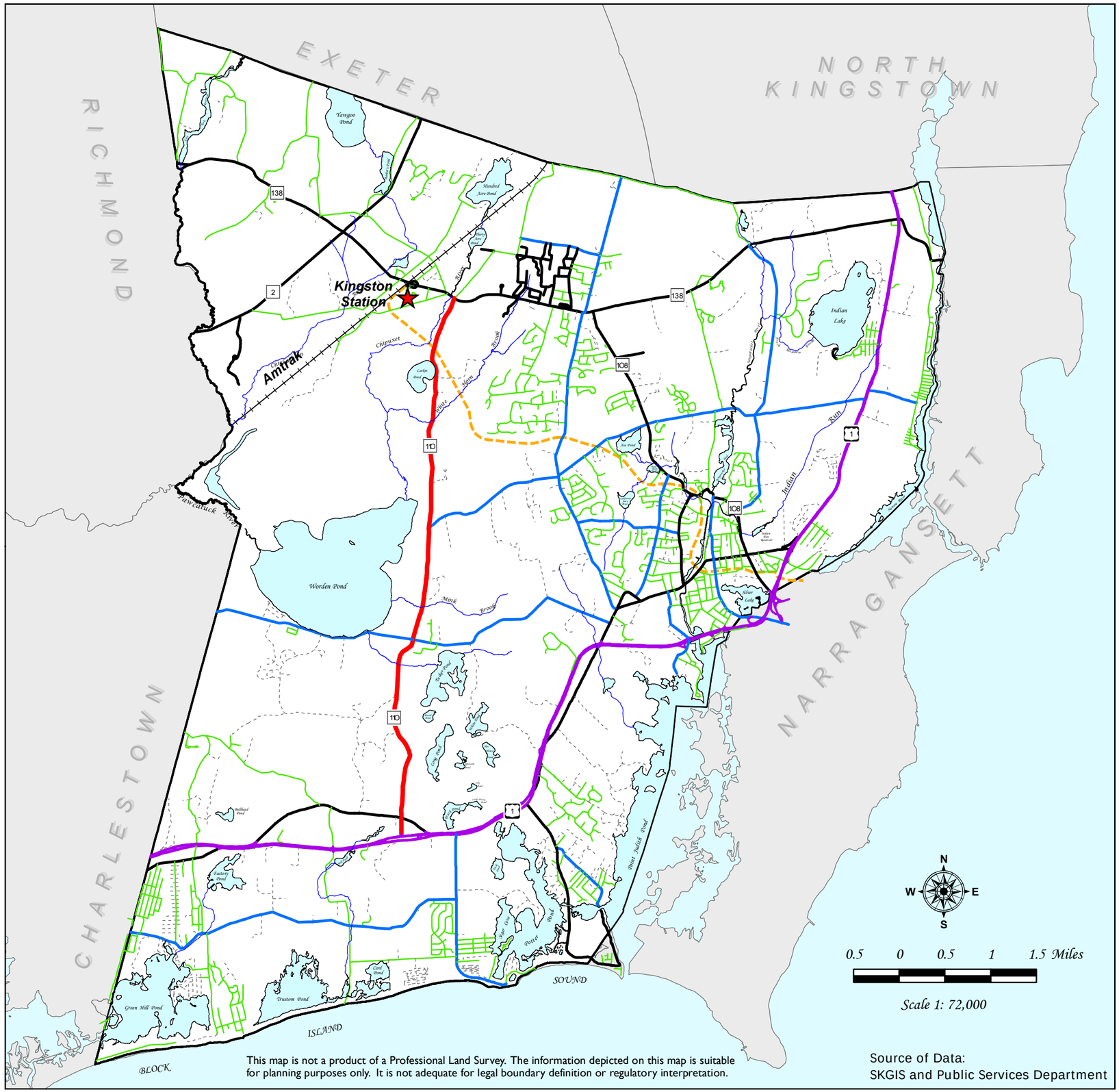
Implementation

- The Town will work with the various departments of URI to assure that traffic management for all events, including those at the Ryan Center, are adequately planned and implemented to minimize traffic disruption to the community.
- The Town shall support the continuation and expansion of URI's successful partnerships with RIPTA to reduce student/staff traffic impacts on local roads and within campus.
- The Town shall support URI's plans to promote Plains Road and Route 138 east from Route 2 as a means to access the campus and mitigate traffic congestion in Kingston Village.
- The Town shall continue to work with the URI to enhance roadway conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists in future transportation and infrastructure related projects.

Town of South Kingstown

Comprehensive Plan

Circulation System



US Highways
US Route 1 - Scenic Roadway
Application Pending

State Road
Route 110 - Ministerial Road
Scenic Roadway Designation

State Roads

Major Town Roads

Minor Town Roads

Private Roads

Bike Path

Railroad

Streams

Lakes and Ponds

N
W E
S

0.5 0 0.5 1 1.5 Miles

Scale 1: 72,000

This map is not a product of a Professional Land Survey. The information depicted on this map is suitable for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition or regulatory interpretation.

Source of Data:
SKGIS and Public Services Department

Map 8.1

Geographic Information System

PL14-19 cpb 1/14

University of Rhode Island

University of Rhode Island Element

Introduction

The University of Rhode Island element was added to the South Kingstown Comprehensive Community Plan in 2004 in recognition of the importance of URI to the local and regional economy, the diversity of its population, the impact it has on the immediate neighborhoods and villages of Kingston and West Kingston, and the assets it brings to the community for academic, cultural and recreation programs. The presence of the University also stimulates critical and progressive thinking regarding many municipal issues and has set the stage for productive partnerships and collaborations with the Town on a variety of issues and topics. URI and the Town are integral to one another, particularly in the context of community planning. The main Kingston campus is bounded on all sides by the Town. South and east of the campus lies historic Kingston Village, small scale commercial services and residential neighborhoods; North of the traditional campus are University holdings, environmentally sensitive settings and less dense residential areas; West of the campus are open spaces and agricultural areas and the Village of West Kingston, which, given the presence of major state roadways and Kingston Station may provide an opportunity to enhance the west approach to campus as a more significant gateway to the University.

The University of Rhode Island is the major public institution within the Town of South Kingstown. The Town recognizes the University's importance as a historic, cultural, recreational, and employment resource, as an economic development partner, and as a stimulus for intellectual thinking and source of diversity within the community. The Town and University share many common interests relating to preserving and enhancing both communities' quality of life, sense of place, provision of adequate services and infrastructure, environmental protection and respect for history and of each other. A balancing of the interests and needs of South Kingstown, as the host community, and the University, as the State's principal higher education and research institution, is a desirable ongoing goal requiring cooperation, communication and the coordination of land use and infrastructure planning. Planned growth for the University must include parallel capital improvements to the area road system in a manner that is respectful to the residential amenity, historical context and environment characteristics of South Kingstown. University-funded road construction and improvement projects, major commitments to the growth of on-campus housing facilities, as well as initiatives that have effectively stimulated greater utilization of public transportation, demonstrate the University's cognizance of and commitment to planned growth and sensitivity to community interests. Growth without addressing such considerations will result in conditions adverse to the interests of the Town and University. The Town welcomes URI as a community planning partner with the knowledge that pursuing our respective interests in a balanced and open process will result in positive institutional development and enhancement of the community.

Background

Over the past decade, the University has undergone significant enrollment growth and capital facility expansion. During this time period, the University acquired additional lands north of the traditional campus core and has announced its intentions to invest in infrastructure and facilities to support a variety of land uses and activities, certain of which are entrepreneurial in nature or ancillary to typical uses associated with a University setting. Given this trend of institutional expansion and anticipated growth in the near term, this section of the Plan is being re-written to better reflect these trends and to establish a framework to integrate town planning efforts with those of the University in order to balance institutional and "host community" aspirations.

In 2011-12 student enrollment at the University of Rhode Island totaled 15,963, including 12,753 undergraduates, 2,946 graduate and professional degree students and 234 other students (non-degree and off-campus study). Table 1 below compares these overall enrollment statistics to the 2010/2011 academic year.

Table 1. URI Enrollment 2010-2011

University of Rhode Island Enrollment	2010/11	2011/12	# change	% change
Undergraduate	12,682	12,753	71	0.6%
Graduate/Professional Degree	3042	2946	(96)	(3.2%)
Total enrollment	16,002	15,963	(39)	(0.2%)

The table documents a small increase in undergraduate enrollment coupled with a decline in graduate student and total enrollment. It appears that the more significant enrollment growth spurt for on-campus students experienced in the early part of the 2000-2010 decade has leveled off in terms of overall enrollment. As an illustration, in the 2007/08 academic year undergraduate enrollment was 12,516 with total enrollment standing at 15,650. Comparison with the current year notes an overall increase of 313 students or 2.0%. With regard to this overall trend of increasing the size of the student body, it is noteworthy that the University's "Strategic Plan: 2006-2009 Steps Toward Transformation" set an enrollment goal of 16,000 by 2009. University administrators have indicated that this level is viewed as appropriate for the Kingston Campus. It is not seen as likely that significant increases in enrollment will be experienced in the near term.

Over the past several years the University has been rehabilitating older dormitories (residence halls) on the campus and constructing new "student apartment and suite-style" facilities. Residence halls that have been rehabbed include: Heathman, Fayerweather and Gorham Halls, following the nine major residence halls that were fully renovated between 1999/2000 and 2007/2008. New facilities that have come on line in the past few years are the Garrahy and Wiley Halls and Eddy Hall, (containing a combined 800 total beds in a mix of apartment and suite configurations). This trend continued with the recently completed f Hillside Residence Hall, a 429 bed undergraduate dorm occupied in the fall of 2012. This new hall is situated in the south central portion of the Campus near Fraternity Circle. Table 2 below provides statistics to illustrate student living arrangements for the academic years 2007/08 and 2010/11.

Table 2. URI Student Housing Characteristics

University of Rhode Island Student Housing Characteristics	2007/08	2010/11	# change	% change
Place of Residence (on campus)				
Undergraduate Residence Halls	5,021	4805	(216)	(4.3%)
Undergraduate Fraternity and Sorority	651	693	42	6.4%
Graduate Student Apartments	312	264	(48)	(15.4%)
Total on-campus Residency	5984	5762	(222)	(3.7%)
Place of Residence (off campus)				
Undergraduates	6532	7198	380	5.3%
Graduate Students	2,822	2778	(44)	(1.6%)

The above notes a trend of modest decline in on-campus residential occupancy in the past few years. It is noteworthy that current occupancy levels are higher than earlier in the last decade, e.g. in 2002/03 total on campus residency stood at 4,563 students. This earlier growth spurt is attributable in part to expansion of

enrollment but is also explained by new dorm construction and off-line dorms coming back into service after rehabilitation. Completion of the Hillside Residence and possible new fraternity and sorority construction will increase the on-campus housing resources over the next several years continuing the overall trend of on-campus housing. Overall, the statistics indicate that commuters represent the majority (approximately 60%) of the student body for both undergraduate and graduate students.

In recent years the work-force at the University has remained relatively stable. Statistics for the spring 2010 semester indicates a total of 2,377 employees working on campus. For 2008, total employment is 2450 faculty and staff, with the number of FTE (full time equivalent) employees standing at is 2,268, supplemented by 182 part-time employees. Note: employees include faculty and staff but do not include graduate assistants who are counted as students. According to URI personnel information, 772 faculty and staff reside in South Kingstown, or about a third of the University's workforce.

Research activities at URI have undergone significant growth in recent years. According to the report entitled: "RI Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Annual Report for Calendar Year 2010" (Office of Strategic Planning and Economic Development, RI Division of Planning, May 2011), between FY 2007-2010 externally-sponsored research increased by 54%, from $68 million in FY07 to $105 million in FY10. The report notes that the economic impact to the State of RI of the $105 million is estimated at $178.5 million. Further, each $1 in funded research creates $1.7 in terms of total output. The report also states that the average compensation for jobs created through URI's funded research was $56,505/year.

Future Growth

As noted above, the past several years have witnessed continued enrollment growth at the University of Rhode Island. Institutional growth is also apparent in recently completed, ongoing, or planned capital projects on the Kingston campus. Completed and planned new facilities at URI are listed in Table 3:

Table 3. Status of Capital Projects

URI Facility	Projected Cost	Status	Size/capacity
North Woods Apartments and Westside Suites	$74 Million	Complete	800 beds
Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences	$60 Million	Complete	140,000 sq. ft.
Hope Commons Dining Facility	$22 Million	Complete	43,000 sq. ft.
College of Pharmacy	$75.2 Million	Complete	145,000 sq. ft.
Hillside Residence Hall	$46 Million	Complete	429 beds
Proposed Chemistry Bldg.	$65.1 Million	Scheduled to open 2016	118,000 sq, ft.

In conjunction with these recent and active projects, old, obsolete facilities such as the Biological Sciences Center, the original Hope Dining Hall, and the Terrace Apartment Buildings have been demolished freeing these sites for reuse. These new facilities are complemented by a number of other rehabilitation projects to existing campus buildings including the following completed projects:

Residence Halls:

- Heathman - Renovation

- Fayerweather - Renovation
- Gorham - Renovation

Academic and University Buildings:

- Independence Hall (Swan Hall) - Renovation
- 210 Flagg Road – Addition Construction
- Tyler Hall – Renovation (with removal of an adjacent former fraternity house)
- Lippitt Hall - Renovation
- Meade Stadium – Restored West Stands and Renovated East Stands
- Emergency Medical Services and Central Receiving – Addition and Renovation

The University's capital improvement program (FY 11) notes that more than $450 million in investment is pending to support some twenty (20) various on-going and new projects.

The University is also considering the development of a "Research and Technology Park" which was the subject of a feasibility study completed in October 2007 by George Henry George Partners of McLean, Virginia; town professional staff participated in the study.

The proposed Research and Technology Park represents the first proposal that expands outside of the current campus boundary at Flagg Road into undeveloped campus holdings that total approximately 300 acres to the north. *(See Map 9.1 URI Owned Properties.)* This area includes the 125-acre Tibbetts property acquired by the University in September 2006. This proposal was placed on hold pending further evaluation by the Dooley administration. Several faculty members had expressed concerns about the loss of an environmental and teaching resource in the "North Woods" areas which is characterized by wetlands and old growth hardwood stands. Conceptual plans by the University for this area depict flagged wetlands and areas designated to remain in a natural condition. It is noted that a significant portion of these lands are encumbered by wetlands and/or areas subject to closure restrictions due to the proximity of the remediated former landfill at Plains Road.

The initial Conceptual Master Plan for the Research and Technology Park developed by the consultant utilizes approximately 30 acres of land and is comprised of six, four-story buildings containing 320,000 square feet of space. The Park would include two, four-story parking garages containing one thousand (1,000) parking spaces. A ten-year build-out is projected. This represents Phases 1 and 2 of the Park; future phases are contemplated but are not detailed in the report. It is noteworthy that the conceptual plans of the proposed Research & Technology Park facility would consume only 10% of the gross University land holdings north of Flagg Road (30 acres +/-). The Research and Technology Park is, at this time, the only specific proposal for this vicinity. Subsequently, university planners have reduced the footprint of the concept to four buildings with structured parking on approximately 11 acres. This revised proposal has been tabled pending a more favorable business climate to support such a development. Specific use plans for the balance of the property, some 289 acres +/- or (approximately half of which is encumbered by wetlands or the capped landfill and disposal areas) have not been designated at this point in time.

The Town, as a participant throughout the consultant study process, has maintained a consistent posture toward the project – one that has consisted of a general support of the concept, tempered with a number of host community concerns.

The position the Town has taken relative to this proposal is contingent upon a cooperative effort of the University and the Town (and state entities as necessary) to review, discuss, and address the concerns and

issues areas relative to the Park. These issues and concerns were communicated with the consultants and University administration throughout the study. It is recognized that addressing these items is outside the scope of the feasibility study, but they relate specifically to the implementation of the consultants' recommendations regarding the development of the Research and Technology Park and ongoing growth issues at the University.

More recently (spring of 2011) the University engaged a consulting firm, Rockville, Maryland-based Sheer Partners, to review the viability of developing a research park in proximity to the life sciences academic cluster on the campus. Scheer, which specializes in life sciences research, was engaged to conduct a financial analysis and market research on the park feasibility and identify potential companies to target as park tenants. Scheer's study, which has not been publically released, will also identify possible funding resources for the project.

In addition, in 2007 the University engaged a New York-based consulting firm, Economic Research Associates, to conduct a real estate study titled "Real Estate Feasibility Development Plan" to evaluate the feasibility of establishing a number of new land uses in the North Woods area or on other portions of the campus. This study was concluded in the fall of 2007. Among the uses evaluated in this review are the following:

- Faculty/staff housing
- Alumni condominiums
- Small scale "boutique" hotel/conference center (University Inn)
- Student housing (built under contract with a private development entity)
- PGA Certified Golf Learning Center
- Retail uses
- Parking Garages

The North Woods properties, the proposed Research and Technology Park and the other new land uses under consideration that are outside of the traditional university mission are of concern to the Town of Kingstown insofar as they are not addressed in the current University's current Campus Master Plan. The Town has expressed concern that the University's planning effort should encompass these potential uses and provide a generalized usage plan for the North Woods parcel which considers other land uses in proximity, addresses the carrying capacity of the land and acknowledges the unique environmental characteristics of the site. The University administration has indicated that updating the Campus Master Plan is a priority and will engage a consultant to assist the process in the near term. The updated Campus Master Plan, presumably, will incorporate various developments on the traditional campus, provide a policy framework for the area northerly of Flagg Road, and address future uses and/or conservation based management of "outlying" agricultural and open space properties (i.e. Peckham Farm, East Farm, the Hazard property and other tracts outside the main campus). University planning and designing in these areas must be respectful of the environmental setting and community context, especially as it relates to adjacent land uses and infrastructure capacities. The Town strongly supports URI's revision of its Campus Master Plan and will participate fully in this process so that the updated plan will reflect our Comprehensive Plan and accommodate the Town's desires for the community surrounding the Kingston Campus.

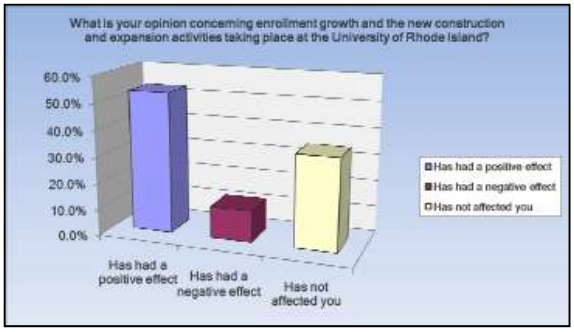
The growth experienced by URI parallels the growth in the Town of South Kingstown and all of the Washington County communities. South Kingstown's population has expanded from 27,921 (2000 Census) to a 30,639 for 2010 (2010 Census). This represents an increase of 2,718 persons since the year 2000 or 9.7%. Considering RI demographics in general, this represents a fairly robust rate of growth

during the decade; however it is of a lesser magnitude than that experienced by the Town between 1990 and 2000 (13.4% or 3290 residents). It is interesting to note that a significant portion of the increase in population that the Town experienced between 2000 and 2010 is attributable to growth in on-campus student residency. In 2000 the Town's "non-institutionalized" residents in group quarters (students in dorms) totaled 4,003 (down from 5081 in 1990). This is attributable to several residence halls being "off-line" for substantial rehabilitation during the 2000 census collection timeframe. The 2010 figure for group quarters (non-institutionalized) is 5,281, some 17.2% of the Town's overall population. In fact Census Tract 514 of which URI comprises a major portion experienced the highest growth rate in the community (27.9% compared to the 2000 census) of any area in the Town.

Going forward it is expected that, on the Town side, growth pressures will persist in the areas in proximity to the campus. Presently there are two subdivisions under active development in the Old North Road corridor, Eldred Farm (8 new single household units) and Kingston Preserve (16 two bedroom condo style units). Other projects that have been approved or are under review include a proposal to expand the Compass School and a proposal known as Fieldstone Farm for a 117 acre parcel on the easterly side of Old North Road. These developments and the potential for others in the vicinity underscore the need for Town/Gown dialogue and cooperation concerning the management of area growth pressures.

The South Kingstown Community Survey conducted in 2010 included the following findings regarding issues related to growth at the University of Rhode Island:

- Questions 20 and 27 from the "South Kingstown Survey of Community Attitudes" concerned URI specifically. Question 20 sought to assess respondent views of the proposed Research and Technology Park. The survey results indicate that 82.5% of respondents were strongly or moderately favorable toward the facility. Those with an unfavorable view of the proposed facility comprised 14% of respondents.
- Question 27 was targeted to assess local attitudes concerning enrollment and facility growth at URI. Here 53.3 % of respondents felt that such growth had a "positive effect", 12% perceived a "negative" and 34.7% felt that enrollment growth and new facility construction at the school had not affected them.



What is your opinion concerning enrollment growth and the new construction and expansion activities taking place at the University of Rhode Island?

URI's growth has placed an increased loading on the area's existing infrastructure (state highways, local roads, utilities, etc.) and affects all of these facilities, sometimes disproportionately. As such, land use and capital improvement planning efforts of the University, Town of South Kingstown, and State of Rhode Island must be coordinated to ensure that negative impacts to the safety, welfare, and convenience of the public are addressed and environmental degradation does not result.

A primary focus of the Town is to make certain that increased loading on area roads and highways does not overwhelm the capacity of these facilities, creating public safety response issues for the University or the community at large. The Town is also concerned that institutional growth should not occur or be viewed in isolation, particularly with regard to transportation impacts. The University administration has

recognized that institutional expansion on the Kingston campus has the potential to affect the Town, its neighborhoods and residents both positively and negatively. The planning process for institutional growth and expanded or new facilities must consider and be coordinated with "host community" perspectives and interests. Continuous communication and an open dialogue with the Town's administration and neighborhoods in proximity to URI must be a theme running through the University's land use planning efforts. Such expansions of enrollment or facilities must occur in a balanced fashion that fully considers quality of life issues of the host community, particularly for the historic villages of Kingston and West Kingston.

The University has roadway improvement projects currently underway including the Flagg Road Extension and Campus Avenue/Fraternity Circle Connector Road (as part of the 138 Improvement Project). As part of the University-related RIPTA program for the provision of shuttle bus services, linked with regional and state-wide transit services, a 27 passenger "flex bus" has been providing service to the Kingston Station to and from the Campus and the surrounding community. The system, in conjunction with the Parking Services program, has, according to the University administration, had the effect of reducing on-campus vehicle movements of resident student cars during the academic day. Also, a program that underwrites and offers half-price bus passes to students and staff has also been in place since 2005. URI reports that since implementing the half-price bus pass program, sales have increased by 300%. These initiatives underscore the University's awareness of traffic and transportation issues on Campus and in the adjacent community and have resulted in expanded use of public transportation. These programs, coupled with the recent growth of on-campus housing facilities, are seen as positive developments with regard to transportation and campus housing issues and infrastructure capacities.

University growth, at the same time, also has the potential to adversely impact service requirements and costs for the Town, particularly in the areas of public safety (police, fire and EMS) response needs. The requirements for expansion of municipal or fire district service requirements attributable to institutional growth or expansion need to be carefully considered and may require agreements to define service responsibilities and/or the assignment of cost requirements. The Town is cognizant that the University provides direct support for its needs in the areas of public safety and utility systems. Examples include but are not limited to: URI Police Force, EMS (emergency medical services), majority financial support to the Kingston Fire District and the URI water system which also hosts well sites for the Kingston Water District, with interconnections between both for mutual benefit. URI also manages its own solid waste and recycling program and is an active partner in the Regional Waste Water Treatment System serving the University and the Towns of Narragansett and South Kingstown. These activities notwithstanding, many University systems and programs related to public safety and infrastructure are augmented by town resources which have staffing and fiscal limitations. Institutional growth that is not fully supported by University service resources and thereby strains town facilities or programs related to public safety and utility infrastructure is not seen as a sustainable model. It is important that the planning process for institutional growth at URI fully consider and acknowledge the limitations of Town facilities or programs related to public safety response and utility infrastructure capacities.

Town schools are also adversely impacted by the University when children residing on tax-exempt, University-owned properties attend South Kingstown schools. These education costs should be tracked each year to document the impact of these students on the Town's school budget. These costs can be significant to the Town especially since, at present, there is no mechanism to mitigate or off-set this impact. Between the 2003/04 and 2008/09 academic years a total of 58 children residing in Graduate Village at URI have attended South Kingstown public schools. Over this time period the average number of students attending South Kingstown schools from University housing is 9.7 per academic year. Calendar 2003 represents a recent high point with 17 students enrolled in local schools from University

housing. For the 2010/11 school year only 2 students from University housing (Graduate Village and other University housing) attended town schools. It is noted that enrollment data for the 2009/2010 school year attributable to residence in URI housing is not available.

South Kingstown /URI Relationship (Town/Gown)

The Town collaborates with the University of Rhode Island on a variety of issues. This is illustrated by the Town's ongoing participation in the Campus Master Planning Process and the annual Town/Gown meetings. In support of the formal Town/Gown meeting process, frequent meetings between senior University administrative staff and the Town's administration have occurred over the past few years. This overall process has been well-received, productive and has significantly improved communication, awareness and sensitivity among the participants. The Town and URI are also working together on the Route 138 Project Advisory Committee (PAC) in the development of the improvement plan for rebuilding Route 138, between Route 2 and Route 108. Further, town staff and the University administration have worked cooperatively on the closure of the former URI landfill in Kingston and in the planning of a URI bike path spur from the South Kingstown Bicycle Path through Peckham Farm and extending into the main Kingston Campus. This spur was recently proposed by URI for consideration in the State's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Town provided a letter of support for this application. This proposal is intended to encourage the bike path's use as a commuting alternative for more students, faculty, and staff. The Town has also acted as a partner, both financially and as a member of the client group, in the conduct of the study for the proposed Research and Technology Park. The University has also participated in the Town's development and updates of its Comprehensive Community Plan.

Given current conditions and the variety of issues facing the University and the Town, improving communication and collaboration on matters of mutual interest will become more critical. Moving forward, it is apparent that a more structured approach to Town/Gown issues would provide mutual benefits to both the Town and University. Historically, the approach toward addressing issues of mutual concern has been relatively informal and based on an issue-specific or as-needed basis. However, in the future such an approach may not ensure equal access by or consideration of all stakeholder groups.

Accordingly, the Town has suggested that a Host Community/University cooperative agreement be forged to provide a process and structure to address areas where our and URI's interests intersect. This type of agreement is seen as a means for cooperating in the development of the Research Park and other University holdings north of Flagg Road. Such agreements are becoming more commonplace between Universities and host communities nationwide to address general campus planning, community development, and non-traditional (entrepreneurial) campus activities, such as the proposed Research and Technology Park. Moreover, these agreements often create a framework to address impacts to the quality of life in neighborhoods, local environmental systems, area historic resources, local and state roads, and other conflicts, concerns or opportunities. These benefits notwithstanding, the University administration has expressed its preference to persist with a more informal communication and cooperation structure as opposed to the type of agreement the Town advocates. It is the Town's intention, however, to continue to urge URI to enter into a more formal agreement that more effectively addresses the needs of all stakeholders.

The "Host Community/University cooperative agreement" the Town advocates could serve as the framework to address many of the Town's concerns. Among these are the following:

University Policy/Planning Needs

- A University land use plan for all school holdings north of Flagg Road and the incorporation of these concepts into the URI Campus Master Plan.
- Consideration of and consistency with the goals and policies of the South Kingstown Comprehensive Community Plan for campus land use planning.
- Consistency in University planning for the Research Park and adjoining land with the state land use policies articulated in "Land Use 2025, Rhode Island's Land Use and Policies Plan, State Guide Plan Element 121", State Guide Plan Element 611, "Transportation 2030" and the State Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- An inventory and analysis of general environmental impacts resulting from the development of the Research and Technology Park in a sensitive environmental setting (to include review of habitat areas, wetlands, groundwater impacts and drainage management).
- A review of the impact of non-University related land uses on the campus regarding public safety services (including Police, EMS and the Kingston Fire District).
- Provide an annual assessment of the impact of University faculty and graduate level housing on town school system enrollments (e.g., track enrollment of children from faculty and graduate housing in town schools)

Define Road Network Capacities/Limitations

- Establish base line data to define the capacities, levels of service, and limitations (due to right of way constraints or other factors) for the existing road network, both on the campus and for town and state roads.
- Conduct data collection to gauge the impact of URI related traffic on neighborhood areas and resident commuting patterns. In addition to assessing normal institutional activities during the academic year, this effort should include consideration of special events such as graduation, sporting events, concerts, etc.
- Analyze and project traffic flows from planned residential development expansion in the vicinity of the Kingston Campus, particularly Old North Road, and their quantified impact on traffic flow through the Campus, i.e., Upper College, Lower College, Flagg, and Plains Roads.
- Assess the effects of the trend of increased transit service and use as well as increased on-campus residence capacity on commuter traffic flows associated with the Kingston Campus.

Timing of Supporting Capital Improvements

- A parallel, coordinated capital improvement planning process (to the Research Park development) to address any upgrade and improvements requirements to South Kingstown and state roadway connections to the University. The schedule for this plan must be coordinated with development of the Research Park and adjoining land holdings.

Design/Planning and Management of the Research and Technology Park

- Definition of use allowances, density and design standards for the Research Park and vicinity. This process must consider the context of this land in relation to town neighborhoods and the local road network and should also include a public process of engagement to assess/consider the perspectives and concerns of area residents.
- Definition of taxation and PILOT issues between the University and the Town of South Kingstown for uses that are non-University related or proprietary in nature.

- Consideration of host community issues and concerns in legislative proposals from the University regarding the development and operation of the Research and Technology Park.

Planned Municipal Initiatives

The Town plans to undertake or support initiatives in two areas to assist in the planning and capital improvement process concerning the Research Park and other college related growth issues.

First, the Town has requested that RIDOT (with the support of the University administration) engage a traffic consulting engineering firm to conduct a capacity analysis and define the improvement limitations of the current connecting road and highway system. This initial request for analysis is in relation to the Route 138 Reconstruction Project and is focused upon the interface of local and University roads with the state highway. The Town would recommend that the analysis be expanded to also address institutional and local growth impacts to Old North Road, Plains Road and the Kingston and West Kingston Village areas generally. It is noted that RIDOT did review the Old North Road intersection with Route 138 and determined that returning the road to two way traffic was not warranted.

Secondly, the Town plans to review the potential impact of institutional growth on public safety response capacities including fire services (Kingston Fire District), police/public safety (South Kingstown and campus) and emergency medical services (EMS). This review will be conducted in cooperation with the University and the Kingston Fire District.

Overall Town Goal for the University of Rhode Island

The Town recognizes the historical, cultural, recreational and economic importance of the University of Rhode Island to the community as a whole and is committed to working with the University in a pro-active partnership that maintains and strengthens this relationship for the betterment of the Town and the University.

URI Action Plan

The Town's Planning Goals and Policies that are intended to promote the Overall Goal of this Element are organized into four categories under the following headings:

(1) Improve Host Community/Institutional Relationship and Strategic Planning
(2) Enhance Transportation, Traffic, Public Safety and Infrastructure System Linkages
(3) Promote On-Campus Housing Resources and Affordable Housing Opportunities
(4) Preserve Open Space, Provide for a Sustainable Campus Environment and Enhance Natural Systems Protection

Planning Goal 1: Improve Host Community/Institutional Relationships and Strategic Planning.

Policy 1.1: The Town will maintain effective and ongoing communications with the University by continuing to participate in the URI Master Plan Review Team process.

Policy 1.2: The Town will be pro-active with the University on transportation planning, traffic management, traffic calming and infrastructure related issues, particularly in relation to the Rhode Island Department of Administration, Division of Planning's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Policy 1.3– The University intends to revise its Campus Master Plan to include land holdings northerly of the traditional Campus boundary at Flagg Road prior to any development in this area. This process should include substantive efforts to involve the Town as the "host community".

Policy 1.4 – The University and the Town should work toward the development of a "Host Community/University" cooperative agreement to provide a process and structure to address areas where common interests intersect and matters of concern arise.

Policy 1.5 – The Town recognizes that declining state support of URI provides an impetus to seek "non-traditional" means to provide resources to support facilities and programs on the Campus. In this regard the Town strongly encourages URI to coordinate with and solicit community input regarding the change in use or new use of any URI-owned parcels beyond the immediate Kingston Campus. Where planned uses are outside the traditional University educational mission or proprietary in nature, the Town and University should consider whether local zoning requirements, payment of real estate taxes and Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements need to be instituted.

Policy 1.6 – The Town will monitor the impacts of educational costs associated with school children in local schools resulting from on-campus graduate student and/or faculty/staff housing. Based on this review the Town will establish a framework for determining when a PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) program to compensate the Town of South Kingstown for additional educational costs is appropriate.

Implementation

- The Town will continue to actively participate in the URI Master Plan Review Team process.
- The Town shall consider an agreement with URI to support local food systems in South Kingstown through coordinating available resources and expertise.
- The Town will work with the University and RIDOT to define and develop appropriately scaled infrastructure upgrades and the use of traffic calming techniques and management strategies in the Kingston and West Kingston vicinities to address existing and proposed institutional development and general community growth.
- The Town will track municipal costs attributable to the University, particularly with regard to school children in local schools from on-campus graduate student and/or faculty housing. This database will form the basis of discussions with URI regarding a potential PILOT program to address these costs.
- The Town will continue its legacy of accessing University expertise and resources to cooperatively address local issues relating to land use, urban design, environmental systems analysis, infrastructure and special projects.

Planning Goal 2: Enhance Transportation, Traffic, Public Safety and Infrastructure System Linkages.

Policy 2.1 –The Town supports and strongly encourages University efforts and programs to utilize and promote innovative and alternative forms of transportation for commuters and staff, particularly in relation to underutilized RIPTA programs and linkage to the use of the Kingston Station multi-modal transportation capabilities. Such linkages may also include consideration of

off-campus state properties (i.e. Scarborough Beach Parking lot) to serve as satellite parking facilities for RIPTA service to and from the Campus.

Policy 2.2 – The Town supports and encourages the University's efforts to promote active, healthy modes of transportation in future improvement projects to increase pedestrian safety, support the health of students and faculty, and reduce automobile dependency.

Policy 2.3 – The Town supports the use of the South County Bike Path as an alternative means of commuter access for "down the line" commuting to the University and will continue to work in concert with URI and RIDOT to improve linkages from the existing path to the institution.

Policy 2.4 - The Town strongly supports University programs and policies to decrease commuter traffic to and within the Campus, particularly with regard to promoting the use of high occupancy vehicles, public transit (RIPTA) and shuttle buses to access the multi-modal facility at the Kingston Railroad Station. Student, staff and faculty utilization of the commuter rail facility at Wickford Junction should be encouraged.

Policy 2.5 The Town supports and encourages the University to implement policies and programs to lessen resident student use of automobiles on campus. This effort may include, but not be limited to:

- increased fees for parking,
- parking lot restrictions and prohibitions of resident underclassman parking/auto use (particularly for the freshman class),
- Expand shuttle service both on and off the campus and other means to promote efficient access to and within the campus environs. Promote policies that discourage vehicle movements of resident student cars on the Campus during the academic day.
- Establish/enhance programs that promote a healthy, walkable, bikeable campus environment.
- Consider the establishment of a complete streets policy for all campus infrastructure improvement projects.

Policy 2.6 – To adequately support and mitigate the impact of new or expanded Campus facilities, the University should develop a parallel, coordinated capital improvement planning process to address any upgrade and improvements requirements to South Kingstown and state roadway connections to the University.

Policy 2.7 – In cooperation with RIDOT and the University, the Town will support and participate in research efforts and studies as appropriate to define infrastructure and service provision capacities/limitations as well as to identify capital improvement needs for addressing such deficiencies along with requirements for upgrades and improvements in response to institutional and general community growth.

Policy 2.8 – The Town strongly supports the University's efforts to promote the health of its students and faculty through providing active modes of transportation to and within campus, access to recreational resources, and access to healthy food on campus.

Policy 2.9 – The University and RIDOT, in cooperation with the Town of South Kingstown, should undertake a planning process to promote balanced multi-modal access to and within the

Campus by faculty, staff, students, commuters and visitors. This effort would include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Development of a program to promote/enhance Plains Road as an entry point to the school
- Consider the feasibility of establishing a link to Route 2 from the northwest corner of the Campus (via Wolf Rock Road),
- Review and identify improvements needs for the pedestrian and bicycle system connecting to and within the campus
- Promote/improve mass transit linkages to surrounding communities and within the Campus environment itself
- Evaluate trends and modify/update as warranted the "Kingston/University of Rhode Island Comprehensive Transportation Study", prepared by BETA Engineering for RIDOT, South Kingstown, and URI in November 2000

Implementation

- The Town will strongly support University programs to promote and utilize alternative forms of transportation for commuters and staff, including efforts to preserve and extend existing routes and expand RIPTA services to better service student enclaves "down the line".
- The Town shall continue to implement the recommendations of "South Kingstown: Designing a Healthier Community" as they relate to the University and surrounding neighborhoods.
- The Town will research, consider and institute, as appropriate, traffic calming techniques on town roads in proximity to the University to manage traffic flow and promote safety. The Town will urge the State of RI and the University to continue to utilize such techniques on state roads and the campus road system (e.g., the 138 Improvement Project) and University actions with regard to its internal road systems (e.g., eliminating parking on Flagg Road north side and from Heathman Road to Upper College on the south side, increased cross walk markings and elevated cross walks, and added three and four-way stops at key intersections).
- Through active participation in the State TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) and in the development of the local CIP (Capital Improvement Program), the Town will assess transportation system adequacy, advocate and plan for infrastructure improvements that will appropriately handle existing traffic and expected future volume conditions on state and town roads in proximity to the University.
- The Town will work with RIDOT and URI to review and define area infrastructure capacities and limitations in relation to University expansion, capital facilities planning and background community growth. As part of this cooperative effort options to address deficiencies and capacity limits will be researched and implemented, as appropriate.
- The Town will work with URI to develop and maintain recreation resources that are well connected to campus and surrounding neighborhoods through bike paths, foot paths, parks, and hiking trails, and other recreational services and facilities.
- In cooperation with URI, the Town will review the potential impacts of institutional growth at the University on public safety response capacities (including South Kingstown EMS, Kingston Fire District, Kingston Water District and Police).
- The Town encourages the University to continue efforts and cooperation with town public safety personnel to manage special event traffic impacts on the historic villages of Kingston, West Kingston and associated neighborhood settings.

- The Town encourages the University to utilize best management practices for the storage, handling and transport of hazardous materials and chemicals on the Kingston campus. In this regard the University is further encouraged to store, manage and transport these materials in a manner that is sensitive to the surrounding college and residential communities as well as the natural features and systems in proximity to the campus. This effort should include appropriate notice and incident planning/management in cooperation with public safety personnel (police, EMS and Kingston Fire District).

Planning Goal 3: Promote On-Campus Housing Resources and Affordable Housing Opportunities.

Policy 3.1 - The Town will generally support the University's plans for expansion of on-campus student housing, provided such expansion is supported adequately through the provision of appropriate infrastructure and facilities.

Policy 3.2 - The Town supports efforts by the University to house a greater percentage of the student body on campus to lessen demand on rental housing within the Town and region and to mitigate commuter traffic to the campus.

Policy 3.3 – Any University initiated or sponsored projects to provide faculty, staff or alumni/retiree housing should include affordable components consistent with the goals of the "Rhode Island Low and Moderate Income Housing Act RIGL 45-53" and South Kingstown Comprehensive Community Plan's Affordable Housing Production Plan. This type of capital planning will benefit the University and the Town by increasing the affordable housing resources across the entire community.

Implementation

- The Town will request that the University annually provide current academic year enrollment statistics and projections for same covering a five year timeframe. The Town will also request that the University provide updates on its capital improvement program, particularly as it relates to construction of new student housing on the campus.
- The South Kingstown Affordable Housing Collaborative will provide resource information and advocacy for University initiated or sponsored projects that provide on-campus faculty, staff or alumni/staff housing to ensure such projects include an affordable housing component consistent with RIGL 45-53.

Planning Goal 4: Preserve Open Space, Provide for a Sustainable Campus Environment and Enhance Natural Systems Protection.

Policy 4.1 – To protect wetlands and surface and groundwater resources associated with the Chipuxet Aquifer, the Town supports, encourages and expects that the University will utilize best management practices for drainage handling and soil and sedimentation control all capital improvement projects, campus renovations and infrastructure management.

Policy 4.2 - Consistent with the heritage of the University as a "Land Grant College" and "Agricultural Experiment Station", the Town strongly encourages URI to identify, consider, preserve and protect sensitive natural areas and features in all capital improvement projects and infrastructure upgrades. Preservation of the open space character and agricultural legacy of the

Kingston Campus must be a guiding principle in the master plan revisions considered for all campus facility expansion northerly of Flagg Road.

Policy 4.3 – The University Master Planning program should also address future uses and/or conservation-based management of "outlying" agricultural and open space properties such as Peckham Farm, East Farm, the Hazard property and any other tracts outside the main campus environs. These outlying parcels are located in sensitive environmental settings that help to support the University legacy as a land grant college and are important in defining the rural and open space characteristic of the Town and URI.

Policy 4.4 - The Town supports the University's recent focus at promoting a sustainable campus environment, as evidenced by the school's LEED certification program for new facilities and the recently developed, draft document entitled: "URI Climate Action Plan" July 2010. The Town encourages the University to consider and adopt the Climate Action Plan as a component of its campus master planning efforts.

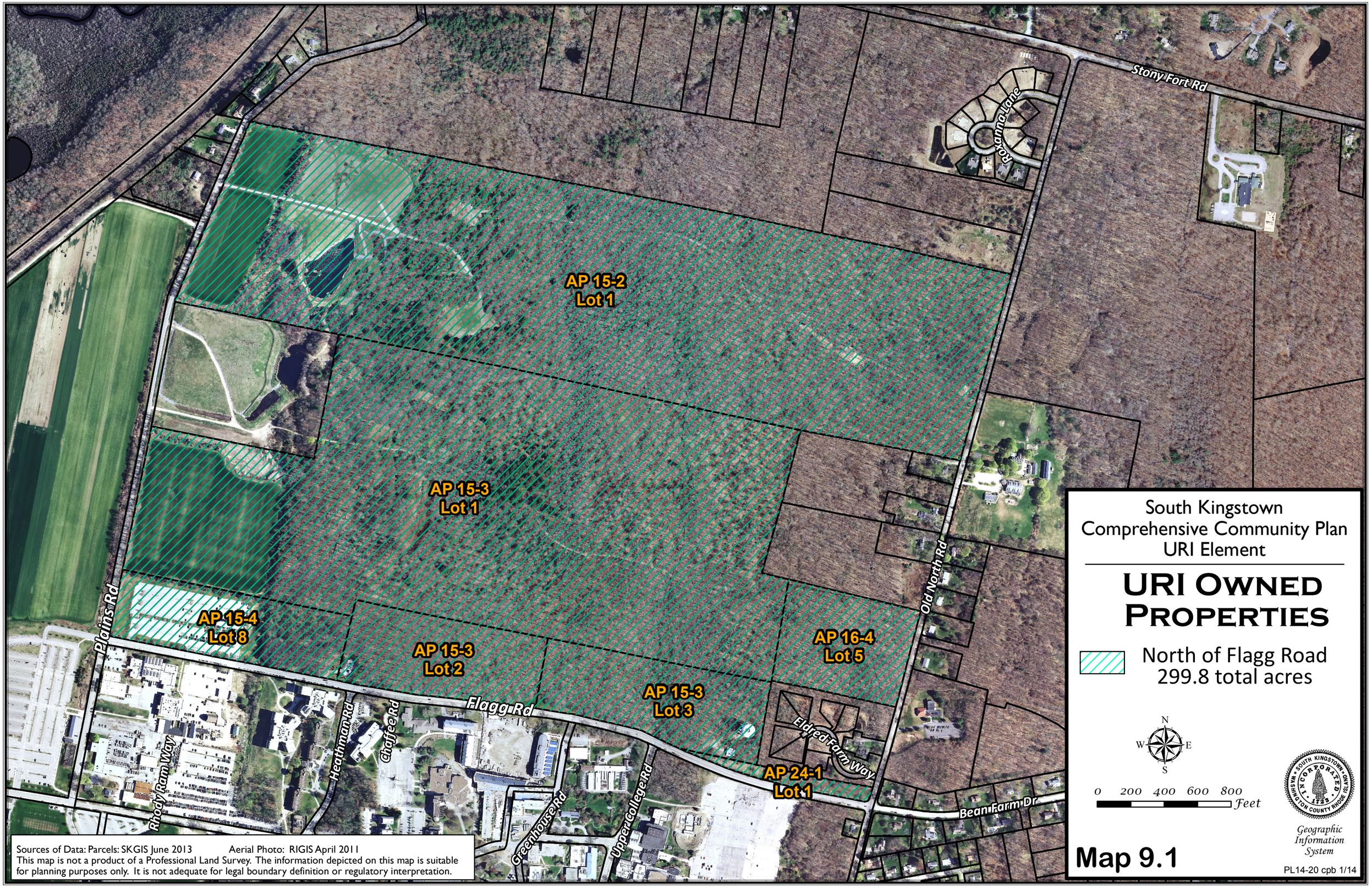
Policy 4.5 – The Town shall work collaboratively with the University to inventory all existing healthy food resources on campus and promote these resources to students faculty, and where appropriate, the community at large.

Policy 4.6 – The Town highly encourages the University to adopt purchasing practices already employed by many other Rhode Island colleges to increase the procurement of local food products from farmers and growers in town and nearby communities.

Implementation

- To assist the University's Campus Master Plan development process, town staff, boards and commissions will share resource information and expertise with the University concerning open space in proximity to the campus, as well as wetlands data and other information pertinent to on shared environmental resources.
- The Town will take an active role in the University's land use and conservation planning efforts for all URI properties within South Kingstown's borders.
- The Town will support University programs to promote "green development", sustainability, energy conservation and preservation of the historic character of the campus.
- The Town will encourage the University to constrain its capital improvement program and facilities expansion to the known capacity of the Chipuxet aquifer.
- The Town shall work collaboratively with the University to inventory all existing healthy food resources on campus such as food outlets, food gardens, sites available for small-scale agriculture, accessible kitchen space, and compost facilities. This inventory shall be made available to students, faculty and, where appropriate, the community at large to increase awareness of healthy food resources.
- The Town shall work with the University to increase the availability of healthy food resources on campus and increase the capacity for the sustainable composting program and other food waste practices.
- The Town Council shall consider a resolution stating that the Town and the University will work collaboratively together to support a locally-based food system that includes sustainable local agriculture and aquaculture activities.

- The Town shall work collaboratively with the University and state legislators to identify and address any barriers to utilizing the University's purchasing power to increase the procurement of local food products from farmers and growers in town.



Sources of Data: Parcels: SKGIS June 2013 Aerial Photo: RIGIS April 2011
This map is not a product of a Professional Land Survey. The information depicted on this map is suitable for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition or regulatory interpretation.

South Kingstown
Comprehensive Community Plan
URI Element

URI Owned Properties

North of Flagg Road
299.8 total acres

N
W E
S

0 200 400 600 800 Feet

Geographic Information System

Map 9.1

PL14-20 cpb 1/14

Implementation Schedule

Implementation Schedule

The following is a schedule for implementation of the South Kingstown Comprehensive Community Plan. It identifies the Action (Implementation) Item of each element, the responsible party in its implementation and the time frame it is estimated that it will be completed, either short-term (one to five years), mid-term (six to ten years) or long-term (ten to 20 years). Action items can also be ongoing.

Land Use Action Plan

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
Policy 1.1 - The Town endorses the use of the Comprehensive Plan and its implementation as a means to preserve its diverse landscape and rural, small-town character, to balance the diverse needs of its citizens and businesses, and to implement its land use policies.		
The Town shall amend the Comprehensive Plan in accordance with state level requirements or in accordance with the needs of the community.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Ongoing
The Town shall establish procedures to ensure that the goals of each element of this Plan are implemented and that any modification to goals or policies is evaluated for its conformity with the balance of the Plan.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term
Policy 1.2 - The Town recognizes that improved communication between the Town Planning Department and the citizens of this community regarding the Comprehensive Plan and other planning documents and processes will result in a better understanding of planning issues within the Town.		
The Planning Department and Planning Board shall, as part of their biennial Growth Management Program, evaluate and implement appropriate measures to foster better communication and information on planning issues and the general land use planning function within the community. Such measures may include: a departmental brochure, outreach efforts to community groups, and improved use of the Town's website as a means to educate and inform interested parties.	Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term
Policy 1.3 - The Town recognizes that the Zoning Ordinance, Zoning Map, and Subdivision and Land Development Regulations must conform with the provisions and intent of this Plan.		

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall continue to require that any formal amendment to this Plan include a public hearing to reflect any proposed change to the Zoning Ordinance, Zoning Map, or Subdivision and Land Development Regulations, where necessary.	Short	term
Policy 1.4 - The Town recognizes that regulations governing the development review process shall be clear and utilize unambiguous language.		
The South Kingstown Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision and Land Development Regulations, and the Residential Design Manual Standards shall be reviewed and revised to improve implementation and to avoid ambiguity.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Mid-Term
Policy 1.5 - The Town recognizes the importance of regional planning with adjacent communities and with other Washington County communities.		
The Town supports the Washington County Regional Planning Council process and will continue to participate in this endeavor.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Ongoing
Policy 1.6 - The University of Rhode Island (URI) is recognized as a planning and community partner with the Town of South Kingstown.		
The Director of Planning shall continue to coordinate with the URI regarding projects of mutual concern or impact.	Planning Department, Planning Board	Ongoing
The Town shall pursue all implementation items related to URI listed within the Economic Development, Services and Facilities, Circulation, and URI elements of the Comprehensive Plan.	Planning Department, Planning Board	Long-Term
The Town shall consider an agreement with URI to support a local food system in South Kingstown through coordinating available resources and expertise.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council, URI	Short-Term
Policy 2.1 - The Town recognizes that the fiscal, as well as the environmental, social, and cultural impacts of new developments must be considered in the development review process.		
The Town may continue to require that significant new subdivisions be phased over a specified time frame to control the impacts of new residential development.	Planning Department, Planning Board	Ongoing

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
Policy 2.2 - The Town will continue to require landowners, builders and developers to address the cumulative impacts of the use, or proposed use, of their properties on the community. Each must pay his/her fair share of the community impact of the proposed use. Such impacts include, but are not limited to, water supply and sewage disposal, groundwater protection, natural and ecological systems, stormwater management, drainage provisions, traffic flow, provision of recreation and open space areas, pedestrian access and connectivity, provision of bicycle amenities, and support of infrastructure improvements and required Town services.		
The Town shall develop mechanisms for measuring and accounting for the cumulative impacts of development and addressing these impacts within the development review process. The Town shall formalize this metric within regulations that will specify new requirements for applicants and provide clear decision criteria for review authorities. The Town shall require multi-modal trip generation analysis for major subdivisions and land development plans.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term
The Town shall require multi-modal trip generation analysis for major subdivisions and land development plans	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term
The Town shall amend regulations and development review decision criteria to incorporate design standards for infrastructure improvements regarding pedestrian and bicycle circulation for both on-site facilities and connections to adjoining neighborhoods and villages.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term
The Town will explore the possibility of enforcing limits on impervious cover in areas where watershed and/or aquifer protection issues are of paramount concern.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council, Con. Comm.	Mid-Term
Policy 2.3 - The Town shall continue to relate the rate of commercial growth to the rate of population growth in its growth management programs in order to achieve stability to its tax rate and to provide necessary public services and facilities, while at the same time avoiding overdevelopment of commercial land uses which may alter the character of the Town.		

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall continue to annually review its population projections, building permit data and rate of subdivision and commercial development in an attempt to balance significant increases in population or high rates of residential or commercial construction with concomitant restrictions on growth rates based on the capacity of the public school system or other critical Town capacities.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council, Town Manager	Ongoing
The Town shall conduct a Build Out Analysis every year to ascertain trends and to determine the success of growth management strategies.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Ongoing
The Town will review the appropriateness of existing zoning regulations on the "upper Main Street corridor" (Columbia Corners to the Dale Carlia intersection). This area, while providing varied commercial services, has retained a residential character and feel.	Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term
Policy 2.4 - The Town recognizes that maintaining a sustainable rate of residential development is critical to preserving its small-town character and providing for appropriate Town services and facilities.		
The Town shall continue to utilize its growth management tools such as the bi-annual Growth Management Program and the Development Pacing and Phasing Ordinance to provide for a sustainable rate of residential development.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Ongoing
The Town shall continue to encourage future residential development to be located within the existing villages, as appropriate, in order to support a sustainable pattern of development and encourage more connected, walkable environments.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Ongoing
The Town shall utilize its GIS system to identify and review "constrained" lots of record (vacant), and develop a regulatory structure to better consider such parcels when they come forward for active use.	GIS Services Department	Short-Term
Policy 3.1 - The Town recognizes that its rural, small-town character and natural resources must be protected and enhanced through appropriate land use regulations, design guidelines, environmental protection, site planning and landscaping regulations.		

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall support a Low Impact Development (LID) approach to development and redevelopment by revising its regulations to provide innovative standards for resource protection and site design.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term
Policy 3.2 - The Town shall encourage landscape diversity that creates identity and a sense of place, fosters the creation of distinct neighborhoods and villages, and recognizes the natural, historic, and cultural features of the land and surrounding community.		
The Historic District Commission and Conservation Commission shall be provided with training opportunities in order to expand their capacity in the development review process where appropriate.	Historic District Comm., Con. Comm.	Short-Term
The Town will evaluate the appropriateness of establishing new Historic District Overlays within the Zoning Map and the use of additional regulatory tools for the purpose of historic preservation planning.	Historic District Comm.	Mid-Term
The Town recognizes the historic, scenic and cultural values of the southwesterly approach (gateway) into Wakefield Village via the Post Road/Main Street corridor and will evaluate, consider and implement appropriate measures to preserve, protect and enhance the infrastructure, land uses and scenic characteristics of this corridor and vicinity.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Mid-Term
Policy 3.3 - The Town discourages future residential growth which contributes to monotonous suburban-style subdivisions and encourages a high quality of design in the creation of new neighborhoods. The process of growth must be directed toward the creation of communities and directed away from urban sprawl.		
Town will update the "South Kingstown Residential Design Manual" and the regulations for Flexible Design Residential Projects to improve standards for flexible frontage, landscaping, and transportation improvements.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Mid-Term
The Town will encourage the integration of green building design standards and sustainable development practices within development and redevelopment projects.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Long-Term
The Town will encourage subdivision design and redevelopment projects that support active, healthy lifestyles through providing pedestrian-oriented environments, connectivity to nearby recreation resources, bicycle amenities, access to public transit, and home-based food production, where appropriate.	Planning Department, Planning Board	Ongoing

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
Policy 3.4 - The Town will continue to require landowners, builders, and developers to address the local impacts of the development or redevelopment of their properties on the community. Such local impacts include, but are not limited to, adequacy of transportation infrastructure, multi-modal transportation opportunities, pedestrian connectivity, design integration of the project with the existing natural and built environment, historic, cultural, and recreational resources, and requirements for the provision of municipal services to the site.		
The Town shall adopt regulations that will require landowners, builders, and developers to minimize adverse impacts on the local community. These regulations shall specify requirements for applicants to explain and address local community impacts within their proposals and plans and provide review authorities with clear decision criteria.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term
The Town shall adopt regulations that will require applicants to account for, consider, and address impacts on pedestrians and bicyclists.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term
The Planning Board shall be provided with training opportunities to expand the capacity of its members to review potential developments impacts and determine defensible findings of fact and appropriate conditions within their decisions.	Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term
To assist and improve the development review process the Town shall amend its regulations to expand existing requirements for professional peer review to apply to major residential, commercial or industrial land development projects or redevelopment proposals, Comprehensive Permits, and Zoning- Special Use Permits, where appropriate.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term
Policy 3.5 - The Town shall encourage quality design within its commercial development that provides an amenity to the area, supports a healthy, walkable environment, and avoids a strip highway commercial development patterns characterized by suburban-type shopping centers dominated by parking lots.		
The Town shall encourage commercial development design that supports active modes of transportation such as walking, biking, and public transit.	Planning Department, Planning Board	Ongoing
The Town shall amend the regulations for the Commercial Highway, Commercial Downtown, and Commercial Neighborhood Districts to address standards for building scale, architectural elements, pedestrian access and connectivity, signage, and landscaping.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Mid-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall explore ordinance and regulatory amendments for its Central Core Villages and adjacent commercial areas to encourage innovative commercial design, such as adopting form-based codes, commercial design standards, or a commercial development design manual for appropriate areas to support pedestrian-oriented building design, the integration of a mix of uses, and the reuse of underutilized or vacant structures and parcels.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Mid-Term
The Town shall consider the development of a Signage Ordinance to regulate signs within its commercial districts with a focus on supporting a pedestrian-oriented environment.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term
Policy 3.6 – The Town supports a policy of improved "access management" for local and state roads and discourages the creation of multiple driveways along the frontage of existing public streets in such a way as to create traffic safety hazards and contribute to visual degradation of scenic roadside areas.		
The Town shall limit the creation of multiple, unnecessary driveways and curb-cuts during the development review process in order to support pedestrian activity.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Ongoing
The Town shall permit the conversion of private streets to public streets for the purposes of maintenance according to an explicit road acceptance policy as adopted by the Town Council. The Town's policy is not to extend maintenance services to these areas as they are presently platted.	Town Council, Department of Public Services	Long-Term
Policy 3.7 - The Town shall continue to work with the Coastal Resources Management Council and RI Department of Environmental Management to ensure that, to the extent permitted under the RI General Laws and regulations governing those agencies, assents and permits will be consistent with the community comprehensive plan and local zoning requirements.		
The Town shall require more stringent standards, where appropriate, than the minimum standards applied by the Coastal Resources Management Council and RI Department of Environmental Management in their assent and permitting processes.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Ongoing
The Town will require that all major land development projects and major subdivisions within Salt Pond Region Special Area Management Plan jurisdictional areas comply with the density standards for Self Sustaining Lands (80,000 square feet/unit) and Lands of Critical Concern (120,000 square feet/unit).	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Ongoing
Policy 3.8 - In accordance with Element 156 of the State Guide Plan, "RI Urban and Community Forest Plan" the Town encourages the preservation and protection of trees in the built environment by supporting policies and principles of good urban and community forestry.		

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
Policy 4.1 - The Town supports a control of urban sprawl and dispersion by concentrating population density and infill development within the villages, as appropriate, and by providing these areas with public transportation, services, facilities, pedestrian and bicycle amenities, civic buildings, recreational resources, infrastructure improvements, and housing opportunities.		
The Town shall review and revise its Zoning Ordinance and regulations relating to its villages to ensure that development and redevelopment will be complementary to the character of existing villages. This may include, but is not limited to, allowing for an appropriate mix of uses, revising standards controlling the size, shape, massing, scale and location of buildings and lots, and revising requirements for pedestrian access and connectivity, open space, parking signage, landscaping, and street widths.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Mid-Term
The Town shall invest in infrastructure expansions and improvements to support investment in land development and population density within the villages, as appropriate.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Long-Term
The Town shall coordinate with State officials to encourage State investments in infrastructure in a manner that supports a village-centric approach.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Long-Term
Policy 4.2 - The Town shall support the revitalization of its historic village areas as vibrant, healthy, walkable communities, with bike paths and transit, and access to appropriately scaled mixed use commercial development. The Town will document, support, maintain and enhance the unique qualities of each village.		
The Town acknowledges the distinctions between all its villages that provide each setting with a unique identity and sense of place. These distinctions must be considered when planning for appropriate growth management strategies for each village.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Ongoing
The Town shall continue to support the development of Village Plans, such as the "South Kingstown Village Study: Villages of Wakefield and Peace Dale", to identify and establish the unique goals, strategies, and implementation actions appropriate for each village.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Ongoing
The Town shall continue to implement the recommendations of its Village Plans and shall continue to identify goals and strategies for all its commercial areas using neo-traditional planning techniques to encourage pedestrian friendly and safe development.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Ongoing
The Town shall continue to implement the recommendations of "South Kingstown Designing a Healthier Community" as they relate to supporting healthy village requirements.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Ongoing

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town will continue to use existing documents such as "An Inventory and Analysis of the Village and Rural Qualities of South Kingstown" as important baseline references for the development of future Village Plans.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Ongoing
Policy 4.3 - The Town recognizes the importance of encouraging commercial activity and a vital mix of uses within its Villages to support a healthy, walkable and sustainable model of economic and community development.		
The Town shall ensure that the Village Plans incorporate an analysis of economic issues and service needs to address potential obstacles to achieving economic goals service requirements to support village scaled values.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term
The Town shall consider incentives for encouraging food outlets such as grocery stores, small markets, and other healthy food outlets to locate within its village areas. Such incentives may take the form of reduced licensing fees for businesses providing healthy food and regulatory incentives such as increasing allowances for roadside stands and allowing small-scale grocery stores as accessory uses in commercial and mixed-use developments.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term
Policy 4.4 - The Town recognizes the importance of providing a diversity of housing within its villages that can support a mix of business through localized residents that have a diverse array of shopping and employment needs.		
The Town shall review and revise its regulations to ensure that there are opportunities to locate a range housing types and sizes within the villages.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Mid-Term
The Town shall ensure that the Village Plans incorporate an analysis of housing issues to address potential obstacles to achieving housing goals.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term
Policy 5.1 - The Town recognizes that improved communication between the Town Planning Department and the citizens of this community regarding the creation of affordable housing opportunities will result in better understanding of this specific issue within the community.		
The Planning Department and Planning Board shall, as part of their annual work program, evaluate and implement appropriate measures to foster better communication and information regarding affordable housing opportunities within the community. Such measures may include a departmental planning procedure and outreach efforts to community groups.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
Policy 5.2 - The Town shall continue to work to provide opportunities for the production of affordable housing to maintain residential diversity and to assure that local shops and offices will have a sufficient employment pool.		
The Town shall evaluate the effectiveness of its inclusionary zoning ordinance to determine if additional amendments are needed.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Short-Term
Policy 5.3 - The Town shall continue to coordinate with State officials to encourage Comprehensive Permit Projects that contribute to the community through high quality design and an inclusive planning process.		
The Town will engage State officials in an active dialogue concerning the trend of comprehensive permit applicants attempting to seek broad relief from local planning requirements that contribute to good design and quality of residential projects. Such dialogue will attempt to identify opportunities to amend state and local plans, statutes, ordinances and regulations to better achieve our shared goal of encouraging quality developments that provide affordable housing.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Short-Term
The Town will establish standards for granting density bonuses relative to comprehensive permit applications that are directly related to suitability of the land to support development without adverse environmental impacts (ensure high quality development with safe water supply, reliable wastewater treatment, and proper stormwater management).	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term
Policy 6.1 - The Town supports the preservation of farmland for farming activities and encourages a local healthy food system by providing opportunities for local farmers to sell their products locally.		
The Town shall conduct an audit of existing policies and land use ordinances regarding agricultural activities for consistency with the Rhode Island Agricultural Partnership's Five Year Strategic Plan and recommendations from "South Kingstown: Designing a Healthier Community" to ensure the viability of farming activities and to support a local food system.	Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall utilize a combination of regulatory techniques and amendments (zoning), public and private funding resources (land trusts, easements, purchase of development rights), and economic strategies (providing opportunities to sell/purchase locally grown products) to achieve the necessary protection of farmland and encouragement of farming activities.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Long-Term
The Town Council shall consider a resolution stating that the Town and the University are supportive of a local food system that includes sustainable local agriculture and aquaculture activities.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term
The Town will promote continued and new participation in the State's Farm, Forest and Open Space Program (FFOS). Promotion efforts will include education of the public and potential participants about the value of the program and active communication with existing participants about the benefits of continuing in the program.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term
Policy 6.2 - The Town values a continuous dialogue with residents and business owners to raise awareness of resources and the tools needed to protect them.		
The Town will, on an ongoing basis, utilize the Town website and other communication vehicles to provide information and increase awareness about the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the community. Such outreach shall also provide information about programs and options to protect and enhance these community features.	Planning Department, Recreation Department	Ongoing
Policy 6.3 - The Town shall continue to expand its inventory of: a) historic buildings and structures; and, b) historic and prehistoric archaeological sites, making sure that all aspects and periods of South Kingstown's history are identified and preserved.		
The Town shall expand the measures available for protecting cultural resources to provide maximum protection to South Kingstown's historic and prehistoric resources.	Historic District Comm.	Short-Term
Policy 7.1 - The Town recognizes the need to prepare for continued changes to our coastline on demands on our infrastructure from storm events and shifts in ocean currents.		
The Town shall coordinate with CRMC and develop policies to protect business owners, residents and the general public from impacts to our coastline, particularly in Matunuck Village.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall continue to build upon and implement the measures identified in the *Multi-Hazard Mitigation Strategy Plan* (as revised).	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Long-Term

Housing Action Plan

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
Policy 1.1 - Raise awareness of housing needs throughout the community.		
The Town shall conduct public forums/working meetings that address local housing needs.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Short-Term
The Town shall maintain an updated database of housing and household trends, and housing needs within the Town.	Planning Department, South Kingstown Housing Authority	Short-Term
The Town shall ensure that other sections of the South Kingstown Comprehensive Plan and future neighborhood/village studies support sustainable and appropriately scaled housing initiatives.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term
Policy 1.2 - The Town discourages future residential growth which contributes to monotonous suburban-style subdivisions and encourages a high quality of design in the creation of new neighborhoods. The process of growth must be directed towards the creation of communities and directed away from urban sprawl.		
The Town will update the "South Kingstown Residential Design Manual" and the regulations for Flexible Design Residential Projects to improve standards for flexible frontage, landscaping and transportation improvements.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Mid-Term
The Town will encourage the integration of green building design standards and sustainable development practices within development and redevelopment projects.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Long-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town will encourage subdivision design and redevelopment projects that support active healthy lifestyles through providing pedestrian-oriented environments, connectivity to nearby recreation resources, bicycle amenities, access to public transit, and home-based food production when appropriate.	Planning Department, Planning Board	Ongoing
Policy 1.3 - Utilize policies and regulatory tools to support and maintain quality housing opportunities and sustainable residential development that is accessible by all populations, ages, abilities, and modes of transportation.		
The Town shall maintain the Growth Management Program consistent with the principles of sustainable development.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Ongoing
The Town shall maintain the Fair Share Development Fee Program to offset the impacts of new development on municipal services and facilities.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Ongoing
The Town shall consider developing context sensitive design guidelines for 'tear-downs' and reconstruction to assure new residential construction reflects and is compatible with the existing neighborhood context.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Mid-Term
The Town shall consider designation of a local historic district to include the Matunuck summer colony (and adjacent camp communities) to better manage and preserve these unique housing developments important to the Town's sense of place.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council, Historic District Comm.	Short-Term
The Town shall monitor and address changing demographic trends (i.e. reduction in household size, rental needs for family housing, etc.) through amendments to policies and regulatory tools, as necessary.	Planning Department	Mid-Term
The Town shall promote 'green' housing development/redevelopment throughout the community utilizing Low Impact Design (LID) techniques, energy conservation/efficiency and the use of innovative building technologies.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council, Building Official's Office	Mid-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall continue to support the mix of residential uses into mixed use districts where appropriate in order to provide more sustainable housing choices and to support retail business.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Ongoing
The Town shall continue the development of a Cottage Housing Ordinance using the language provided in the "*South Kingstown Village Study, Villages of Wakefield and Peace Dale"* as a starting point.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term
Policy 1.4 - Improve and maintain the Town's existing housing stock.		
The Town shall continue to improve and maintain the existing housing stock through the enforcement of the State Building Code and Property Maintenance Code (minimum housing standards).	Building Official	Ongoing
The Town (South Kingstown Rehabilitation Program funded through the Community Development Block Grant program) shall continue to assist eligible homeowners with home repairs (e.g., update of electrical, plumbing, and heating systems).	Town Council, Planning Department	Ongoing
The Town shall consider expanding the South Kingstown Rehabilitation Program to incorporate additional programs (e.g., Lead Based Paint Abatement, Property Maintenance, and Energy Conservation Programs).	Building Official, Planning Department	Short-Term
Policy 1.5 - Continue to promote the preservation and rehabilitation of South Kingstown's older and historic housing stock.		
The Town shall pursue development of a low-interest rehabilitation loan program for housing improvement assistance.	Building Official	Mid-Term
The Town shall identify a source of information and training to educate town residents and property owners on appropriate techniques for residential property maintenance, rehabilitation, historic preservation, and energy and water conservation (Preserve RI, Grow Smart and RIHPHC).	Building Official, Planning Department	Short-Term
The Town shall pursue establishing financial incentives to owners of historic property to encourage preservation and restoration of historic houses.	Town Council, Historic District Comm., Building Official's Office	Mid-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
Policy 2.1 - Identify opportunities to integrate affordable housing into existing neighborhoods.		
The Town shall define, support and incorporate the concept of 'work force' housing into the more general category of 'affordable' housing.	Planning Department, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Short-Term
The Town shall consider opportunities to incorporate affordable housing as an accessory, supporting feature in the adaptive reuse of underutilized mill complexes in the community, once the feasibility of commercial and/or industrial uses have been investigated. Such inclusion must be sited, scaled and designed to complement the historic industrial legacy of these complexes and not overwhelm the potential for economic development these complexes represent.	Planning Department, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Short-Term
The Town shall consider village infill areas when siting affordable housing to capitalize on existing infrastructure and facilities and create walkable, healthy communities.	Planning Department, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Short-Term
The Town shall identify opportunities where public improvements (e.g., streetscape improvements and/or publicly funded project improvements to signage, entryways, pedestrian connectivity, and façades) can aid in the integration of affordable housing developments.	Planning Department, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Short-Term
The Town shall continue to promote the positive aspects of affordable housing development proposals as they are approved and constructed.	Planning Department, South Kingstown Housing Authority, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Ongoing
Policy 2.2 - Develop a range of affordable rental opportunities throughout the Town of South Kingstown.		
The Town shall use available State and Federal resources, including but not limited to Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) to create and/or rehabilitate affordable family rental housing in South Kingstown.	Planning Department, South Kingstown Housing Authority, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Ongoing
The Town shall utilize Federal and State Historic Tax Credits or other resources that may be available to create and/or rehabilitate affordable housing opportunities in designated Historic Districts.	Planning Department, South Kingstown Housing Authority,	Ongoing

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
	Affordable Housing Collaborative	
The Town shall continue to ensure the safety and sanitary condition of all subsidized affordable housing units through regular inspections conducted by the Building Official, prior to resident move-in.	Planning Department, South Kingstown Housing Authority, Building Official, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Ongoing
The Town shall investigate a housing rehabilitation grants and loans program (through CDBG funds) to low and moderate-income residents and other programs designed to promote both the quality and quantity of affordable housing and preservation of existing housing stock.	Planning Department, South Kingstown Housing Authority, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Short-Term
The Town shall continue to support state initiatives such as the 'Neighborhood Opportunities Program' to increase resources available to support the affordable housing rental opportunities.	Planning Department, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Ongoing
Policy 2.3 - Develop a range of affordable home ownership opportunities throughout the Town of South Kingstown.		
The Town shall outreach to local financial institutions to improve public awareness of and access to opportunities and programs that will reduce the cost burden of housing (e.g., first time home buyers, down payment assistance, closing costs, etc.).	Planning Department, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Short-Term
The Town shall look for opportunities to expand starter home opportunities (e.g., RI Housing reduced rate mortgage programs and Targeted Assistance Program).	Planning Department, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Short-Term
The Town shall utilize Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds to create a program that provides down payments and closing cost assistance for affordable housing buyers.	Planning Department, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Short-Term
The Town shall continue to support non-profit organizations in developing affordable home ownership units and support new local or regional non-profits.	Planning Department, Non-Profit Developer/Provider, South Kingstown Housing Authority,	Ongoing

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
	Affordable Housing Collaborative	
The Town shall work with the South Kingstown Housing Authority (SKHA) to develop affordable homeownership opportunities through the Section 8 Program.	Planning Department, South Kingstown Housing Authority, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Ongoing
The Town will support and encourage State regulatory amendments that will permit locally resident Section 8 certificates managed by the SKHA to be counted toward the "official" inventory of affordable housing in the community.	Planning Department, South Kingstown Housing Authority	Short-Term
Policy 2.4 - Develop affordable housing opportunities for the homeless and residents with special needs.		
The Town shall identify funding opportunities for the development of emergency, transitional, and permanent housing for homeless persons.	Planning Department, Non-Profit Developer/Provider, Town Council, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Short-Term
The Town shall look to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section 811 Program to fund the development of affordable housing for South Kingstown's disabled and special needs population.	Planning Department, Town Council, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Short-Term
Policy 2.5 - Develop affordable housing opportunities for elderly persons.		
The Town shall actively engage the South Kingstown Housing Authority (SKHA) and other non-profit organizations to utilize Federal 202 funds and USDA funds to create additional elderly housing units.	Planning Department, South Kingstown Housing Authority	Short-Term
The Town shall consider the development of congregate care housing (continuum of care) facilities for elderly persons.	Planning Department, South Kingstown Housing Authority, Affordable Housing	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
	Collaborative	
The Town shall research tax incentives to encourage public and private sector owners to rehabilitate units for elderly occupancy.	Planning Department, South Kingstown Housing Authority, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Short-Term
Policy 3.1 - Maintain municipal programs and resources that support affordable housing opportunities.		
The Town shall implement recommendations carried forward into this plan, from the 2005 Affordable Housing Production Plan, and review progress annually.	Planning Department, Town Council, Affordable Housing Collaborative, Planning Board	Short-Term
The Town shall continue to support the use of the Affordable Housing Fund.	Planning Department, Town Council, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Ongoing
The Town shall continue to work strategically with the South Kingstown Affordable Housing Collaborative to support the implementation of affordable housing policies and recommendations, as well as in educating the public on affordable housing diversity issues.	Planning Department, Town Council, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Ongoing
The Town shall, on an ongoing basis, review the potential to develop affordable units on Town-owned land where such development represents the best use of the land.	Planning Department, Town Council, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Ongoing
The Town shall seek donations of land for affordable housing development.	Planning Department, Town Council, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall consider the acquisition of available land for affordable housing development, where appropriate.	Town Council	Short-Term
The Town shall evaluate potential means to provide a steady source of income for its Housing Fund.	Town Council	Short-Term
The Town will actively support the continuation and expansion of existing Federal and State programs that provide resources for the production of affordable housing.	Town Manager's Office, Town Council, Planning Department	Ongoing
The Town will maintain its tax assessment policy for affordable units (reflective of unit acquisition cost, not market value).	Town Manager's Office, Town Council, Planning Department, Tax Assessor	Ongoing
Policy 3.2 - Form partnerships that will provide greater opportunities for affordable housing.		
The Town shall look to create a coalition on non-profit developers to develop affordable housing in South Kingstown.	Planning Department, Non-Profit Developer/Provider, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Mid-Term
The Town shall encourage partnerships between for profit and non-profit developers. (e.g., Affordable Housing Subdivision Demonstration Project).	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Short-Term
The Town shall actively engage non-profit housing developers and local/regional community development corporations (e.g., South County Habitat for Humanity) to better understand their siting needs/criteria.	Planning Department, Non-Profit Developer/Provider, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall support the efforts of the South Kingstown Housing Authority (SKHA) in the redevelopment/reconfiguration of existing SKHA properties (e.g., Champagne Heights and Fournier Estates).	Planning Department, South Kingstown Housing Authority, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Short-Term
The Town shall partner with the University of Rhode Island to address shared housing challenges.	Planning Department, URI, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Ongoing
The Town shall coordinate with the Washington County Regional Planning Council (WCRPC) regarding regional housing issues and/or opportunities.	Planning Department	Ongoing
Policy 3.3 - Continue the use of regulatory techniques that support and increase affordable housing opportunities.		
The Town shall continue to review and, where appropriate, revise the mandatory Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Ongoing
The Town shall continue the use of the Impact Fee Ordinance to only permit waivers when the long-term affordability restriction is for a minimum of 30 years.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Ongoing
The Town will continue to waive Phasing and Pacing regulations for developers of affordable housing where appropriate.	Planning Department, South Kingstown Housing Authority	Ongoing
The Town will monitor 'fee in lieu' requirements for housing developments where required affordable housing units cannot be established on the development site.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Affordable Housing Collaborative	Ongoing
The Town shall actively negotiate Comprehensive Permit density increases with housing developers, looking to maximize the percentage of affordability in proposals that look to increase density beyond what is allowed through local regulations.	Planning Department, For-Profit Developer/Provider, Affordable Housing	Ongoing

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
	Collaborative	
The Town shall monitor the growing trend of age and family-restricted affordable housing development proposals, in comparison to the family unit needs identified in the Introduction to the Comprehensive Plan.	Planning Department	Mid-Term

Economic Development Action Plan

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
Policy 1.1 - The Town shall continue to pursue partnerships and collaborations that will provide technical expertise and resources toward a focused economic development program.		
Town Boards, Committees and staff will work together to develop a stronger economic development plan that focuses on light industry, research/development and commercial offices.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Boards	Short-Term
The Town shall identify specific initiatives for which URI can serve as a resource and engage the University in an effort to implement these initiatives.	Town Manager's Office, Planning Department	Short-Term
Municipal staff and boards shall continue to work with the South Kingstown Economic Development Committee to develop strategic initiatives and perform research that is valuable to the Town's economic development efforts.	Town, South Kingstown Economic Development Comm.	Ongoing
The Town will work to improve communication with and provide supportive services to the local business community and institutions, (South Kingstown Chamber of Commerce, URI and South County Hospital in particular).	Planning Department, Chamber of Commerce	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall work with local "grassroots" community based organizations to promote economic development opportunities that support a sustainable village planning model.	Planning Department, South Kingstown Economic Development Comm., community organizations	Short-Term
The Town shall seek to improve and coordinate communications with the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation to identify and develop programs and initiatives that will be useful to the local business community at a variety of scales.	Town Manager's Office, RIEDC	Short-Term
The Town shall focus supportive efforts toward the local business community to reinforce existing investment and our traditional economy, employment opportunities and the provision of goods and services to our residents and visitors to the community.	Planning Department, Chamber of Commerce	Short-Term
Policy 1.2 - The Town encourages housing strategies that promote the establishment of a diverse workforce in the community.		
The Town will encourage URI to support programs and projects that address the affordable housing needs of the University workforce.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Affordable Housing Collaborative, URI	Ongoing
The Town shall actively pursue the policies and implementation items outlined in the Housing Element of this Comprehensive Plan.	Planning Department, Planning Board	Long-Term
The Town will continue to support URI capital projects geared to house an increased percentage of students on the campus recognizing that this effort will reduce strains on the local housing rental market and transportation system and also provide an enhanced business climate in Kingston Village.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Affordable Housing Collaborative, URI	Short-Term
Policy 1.3 - The Town supports the diverse contributions of URI to the local and regional economy, including research and development activities which may be related to engineering/robotics, bio-technology, plant and soil science, environmental resources, oceanography, coastal management and technology.		

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall work with URI to support research expansion and potential spin off of new businesses, utilizing the State of Rhode Island's incentives for research and development.	Town Manager's Office, Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term
The Town will work with URI to promote local mill complexes as potential business incubators for small business startups that evolve out of the University.	Planning Department, Chamber of Commerce, URI	Mid-Term
The Town will explore the potential for the URI Cooperative Extension Service to provide programs, services, and resources that will enhance the skill and knowledge levels of the local workforce.	Planning Department, Chamber of Commerce, URI	Short-Term
The Town shall consider an agreement with URI to support a local food system in South Kingstown through coordinating available resources and expertise.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term
Policy 2.1 - The Town recognizes the need to be able to understand and communicate the regulatory and programmatic elements of permitting of state and local regulatory agencies.		
The Town shall actively engage and communicate with state agencies to stay current with regulations and programs that may affect development potential in the community.	Town Manager's Office, Planning Department, Planning Board	Ongoing
Policy 2.2 - The Town recognizes the relationship between adequate infrastructure and economic development potential in the community.		
The Town shall integrate any known limitations on its infrastructure into the local regulatory process by requiring impact analyses where appropriate.	Planning Board, Public Services Department, Planning Department	Short-Term
The Town will research and pursue funding to assess drainage problems that regularly occur during heavy rain events.	Planning Board, Public Services Department, Planning Department	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall work with URI to continue and expand transportation opportunities for students and staff to access local commercial and service areas.	Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department	Ongoing
The Town shall promote a well connected pedestrian network to increase access to businesses in village areas, provide an equitable transportation system for all shoppers and workers, and support active modes of transportation.	Planning Department, Planning Board	Ongoing
The Town will, through its annual Capital Improvement Program, consider infrastructure upgrades and enhancements that support the economic development needs of the local business community.	Town Council, Planning Board, Public Services Department, Planning Department	Short-Term
The Town shall continue to actively engage with all state and regional transportation agencies to understand the impacts of future transit development in order to encourage a multi-modal approach to transportation throughout Town as appropriate.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council, RIDOT	Ongoing
The Town will continue to support the South Kingstown "Trolley Program" as a creative, alternative transit program that combines congestion mitigation, local economic development and regional tourism promotion. The Town and "Trolley Program" providers will assess the feasibility of new routes for trolley service based on recommendations and outreach outcomes defined in "South Kingstown: Designing a Healthier Community."	Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term
Policy 2.3 – The Town recognizes the relationship between adequate services and economic development potential in the community.		
The Town shall continue to actively engage with South County Hospital to ensure that local policies, infrastructure improvements and regulations do not hinder initiatives that are consistent with local and regional needs.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Ongoing
The Town shall continue to actively support its safety services including the local fire districts and the municipal public safety function (Police Department and EMS).	Police Department, EMS	Ongoing
Policy 2.4 – The Town supports balancing economic development with the need to protect natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources throughout the community.		

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall continue to compare the adequacy and ability of local and state infrastructure (roads, drainage systems, water, sewer, etc.) to support future economic development with build out analyses developed by the Town. Comparisons will include an assessment of development potential against the capacity of our public water supply and stormwater system.	Planning Department	Ongoing
The Town shall inventory those local resources that may limit future development opportunities and make this information readily available to developers and property owners.	Planning Department	Short-Term
The Town shall establish and support a network of volunteers whose work implements the plans and enhances the values the Town seeks to protect.	Planning Department	Short-Term
Policy 3.1 - The Town recognizes the diversity of its existing villages and the need to consider unique economic development initiatives for each one.		
The Town shall continue to develop Village Plans to identify economic development opportunities that are suited to the unique context, constraints and opportunities presented in each setting.	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce	Short-Term
Policy 3.2 - The Town encourages the revitalization of its Central Core Villages of Wakefield and Peace Dale, as well as adjacent commercial areas, such as the Route 108 corridor, Dale Carlia Corner, and the Old Tower Hill Road corridor.		
The Town shall pursue and implement as appropriate the recommendations provided in its Village Plans, such as "South Kingstown Village Study: Villages of Wakefield and Peace Dale" And related planning documents such as "South Kingstown: Designing a Healthier Community."	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term
The Town shall conduct a vacant or underutilized parcel assessment to better understand infill and redevelopment opportunities in its Central Core Villages and adjacent commercial areas.	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall explore ordinance and regulatory amendments for its Central Core Villages and adjacent commercial areas to encourage innovative commercial design, such as adopting form-based codes, commercial design standards, or a commercial development design manual for appropriate areas to support pedestrian-oriented building design, the integration of a mix of uses, and the reuse of underutilized or vacant structures and parcels.	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce	Mid-Term
The Town shall engage the community to define a vision for Old Tower Hill Road and Dale Carlia Corner. This effort will focus on strategies for increasing pedestrian access and improving building and site design aesthetics as well as opportunities for providing incentives for the redevelopment of commercial property and infrastructure improvements within the existing state right-of-way.	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce	Short-Term
Policy 3.3 - The Town recognizes the importance of preparing for the future establishment of appropriately scaled commuter rail service to West Kingston through a targeted planning effort.		
The Town shall engage the local community in the development of a Village Plan for West Kingston that integrates multi-modal transportation opportunities (including commuter rail service) and provides a comprehensive assessment of infrastructure capacities, regulatory limitations and environmental constraints.	Planning Board, Public Services Department, Planning Department	Short-Term
The Town shall identify vacant or underutilized developable land within West Kingston and assess any constraints associated with those properties including the need for groundwater protection.	Planning Board, Public Services Department, Planning Department	Short-Term
The Town will support the URI's policy to promote access to the campus from the west through the Village of West Kingston and will work with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) regarding properly scaled infrastructure improvements that will support the village as a gateway to URI.	Planning Board, Public Services Department, Planning Department, RIDOT, URI	Short-Term
Policy 3.4 – The Town recognizes the redevelopment potential of the historic mill complexes in the community and policy efforts will focus on providing a regulatory environment that fosters appropriate reuse and economic opportunities.		

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall evaluate and implement, as appropriate, the recommendations of the "Palisades Mill Reuse Feasibility Study." It is noted that implementation of a mixed-use development concept for the mill complex will require modification of the zoning ordinance.	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term
The Town shall maintain an open dialogue with investors, property owners and the Peace Dale residents and business owners to support a viable redevelopment approach for both the Palisades and Peace Dale Mill complexes.	Planning Board, Public Services Department, Planning Department, For-Profit Developers/Providers, community members	Short-Term
Policy 4.1 – The Town recognizes that high quality, transparent local regulations are essential to accomplishing our economic development goals.		
The Town shall maintain a current inventory of any commercial and industrial buildings or properties that are underutilized or vacant. This inventory should be available to potential developers or business interests.	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce	Short-Term
The Town will develop a policy initiative to actively promote the use of its 'Tax Treaty' program as a means to attract new business uses and expansion of existing businesses	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce	Short-Term
The Town will actively and continually review the Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision and Land Development Regulations, and other supporting documents to identify any outdated or confusing language that requires revision.	Planning Board, Planning Department	Ongoing

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town will, on an ongoing basis, review local development ordinances, regulations and other supporting documents to ensure consistency with state and federal requirements.	Planning Board, Planning Department	Ongoing
The Town will evaluate and consider amendments to the use code table in the South Kingstown Zoning Ordinance that will modernize existing language and provide increased flexibility and utility of the ordinance from an economic development perspective.	Planning Board, Planning Department	Short-Term
The Town will review the feasibility of expansion of limited commercial (office and service type uses) zoning in the area Old Tower Hill Road corridor, (area between Old Tower Hill Road and Narragansett Avenue West).	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce	Short-Term
Policy 5.1 - The Town recognizes that high quality design and community character issues are an essential component of future development proposals in non-residential areas.		
The Town shall encourage commercial development design that supports active modes of transportation such as walking, biking, and public transit.	Planning Department, Planning Board	Ongoing
The Town will explore the formation of a commercial development design manual for commercial development in all areas of Town. This manual may be used to develop design guidelines or standards for different districts or neighborhoods within the community to ensure a proper fit of commercial/industrial uses in the surrounding community and provide an efficient and effective permitting process.	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board	Mid-Term
The Town shall revise the parking requirements in the Zoning Ordinance for commercial and industrial projects to avoid over-paving yet include appropriate parking ratios, to require buffering and landscaping of parking areas and to include provisions for street trees.	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term
The Town shall review and implement, as appropriate, the recommendations of the study entitled: "Revisions to the South Kingstown Zoning Ordinance to Promote New Urbanism and Traditional Downtown Development and Redevelopment".	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall ensure that clear standards for parking, setbacks, use and other essential Zoning Ordinance elements will be adopted to address the unique purpose of each commercial and industrial district.	Planning Board, Planning Department	Mid-Term
The Town will review regulatory standards that apply to transitional areas between commercial, industrial, and mixed-use zoning districts and adjoining residential neighborhoods and identify design and performance standards that will ensure compatibility between these uses across district lines.	Planning Board, Planning Department	Short-Term
Policy 5.2 - The Town encourages the clustering/village concept and scale for commercial development to prevent commercial strip design and support a healthy, walkable environment.		
The Town shall amend the regulations for the Commercial Highway, Commercial Downtown, and Commercial Neighborhood Districts to address standards for building scale, architectural elements, pedestrian access and connectivity, signage, landscaping, and street trees.	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board	Mid-Term
The Town shall amend the zoning ordinance to encourage the clustering/village concept and scale for commercial development to prevent commercial strip design.	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board	Mid-Term
The Town will review the zoning ordinance to better nurture and promote business orientation to and access from the William C. O'Neill Bicycle Path.	Planning Board, Planning Department, area businesses	Short-Term
The Town shall amend regulations to require the installation of attractive bicycle parking facilities for any commercial development requiring development plan review.	Planning Board, Planning Department, area businesses	Short-Term
Policy 6.1 - The Town supports the use of land for agricultural purposes including accessory uses and related operations and encourages a local healthy food system by providing opportunities for local farmers to sell their products locally.		
The Town shall an audit of existing policies and land use ordinances regarding agricultural activities for consistency with the Rhode Island Agricultural Partnership's Five Year Strategic Plan and recommendations from "South Kingstown: Designing a Healthier Community" to ensure the viability of farming activities and to support a local food system.	Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall continue to inventory agricultural operations and work with farmers to maintain land in production where possible.	Planning Department, Planning Board	Ongoing
The Town will continue its support of agricultural land preservation through open space and development rights acquisition in cooperation with the Partnership for Preservation, the State's Farm, Forest and Open Space Program (FFOS) and similar efforts.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Ongoing
The Town will continue to support aquaculture operations in our coastal ponds in a manner that is balanced with environmental protection and at a scale consistent with Coastal Resource Management Council regulations.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Ongoing
The Town shall inventory all existing healthy food resources throughout the community such as farmer's markets, community gardens, sites available for small-scale agriculture, community kitchens, food pantry's, food-based business incubators, locally owned grocery stores, roadside stands, and compost facilities. This inventory shall be made available to the public to increase awareness of healthy food resources and promote linkages between local growers, processors, distributors, institutions (URI and South County Hospital) and other food stakeholders.	Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term
The Town will assess the feasibility of using Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) as a regulatory tool for protecting agricultural lands.	Planning Board, Planning Department	Short-Term
Policy 6.2 - The Town supports the continued emergence of an "arts identity" in the community through arts based industry and commerce.		
The Town shall continue to review local codes to ensure that arts based commerce, including light industry, and supporting uses are appropriately allowed in the community.	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term
The Town shall support the installation of public art, where appropriate, to enhance the character of streetscapes, neighborhoods and mixed use areas.	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term
The Town shall explore the possibility of providing financial incentives to artist operations such as "tax free" districts that allow artists to sell their wares without a sales tax.	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
Policy 6.3 - The Town supports the existing tourist economy both on a local and regional scale and will work to preserve and enhance those features of our community that attract tourists.		
The Town shall continue to work with the State, adjacent municipalities, and various conservation groups to promote a comprehensive system of bikeways, walkways, linear parks, and related pedestrian infrastructure and amenities.	Planning Department, Department of Public Services	Ongoing
The Town supports the protection of historic resources, landmarks, and scenic landscapes as an important component of the tourist economy.	Planning Department, Chamber of Commerce	Ongoing
The Town shall continue to promote a regional approach to dealing with State agencies whose policies affect the scenic, cultural, natural, and recreational resources of South County.	Planning Department, Chamber of Commerce	Ongoing
The Town shall encourage continued cooperation among South County communities and the South County Tourism Council to support, package and expand year-round tourism opportunities in the community.	Planning Department, Chamber of Commerce	Ongoing

Natural and Cultural Resources Action Plan

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
Policy 1.1 - The Town recognizes that most of its drinking water is from a Sole Source Aquifer and that no reasonable alternate source exists. Therefore, a Town priority is the protection of these groundwater resources. Because the ground and surface waters are interconnected, strategies must be implemented to preserve quality of ground and surface waters in an integrated manner.		
The Town shall monitor the effectiveness of its groundwater protection overlay district. This overlay includes the groundwater reservoirs and the recharge areas as delineated by DEM. The purpose of the ordinance is to protect, to preserve, and to maintain the quality and supply of groundwater in the Town of South Kingstown. The ordinance shall be reviewed and assessed by the Planning Department and Conservation Commission on a project-by-project basis and the ordinance shall be updated as necessary.	Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term
Policy 1.2 - The Town recognizes that the supply of potable water from the aquifers is limited. The Town will work toward protecting the quantity of potable water and will link growth management plans to the amount of water available for both residential and non-residential uses. The Town shall continue to work with the RI State Water Resources Board regarding water use allocation.		
The Town shall endorse State legislation to regulate groundwater withdrawal for the purpose of developing a comprehensive management strategy to ensure an adequate existing and future water supply for Town of South Kingstown and the State.	Town Council	Short-Term
The Town shall work to protect and promote the quality of groundwater supplies used by either private wells or by water districts.	Town Manager's Office, Public Services Department	Ongoing
Policy 1.3 - The Town will give priority use to drinking water.		
The Town shall project the potable water needs of South Kingstown for the next twenty (20) years and develop a water use priority for water pumped from underground reservoirs areas (GAA areas) to include both residential and non-residential uses.	Planning Department, Public Services Department	Short-Term
Policy 1.4 - The Town recognizes that a watershed management approach to resource protection and utilization is necessary. It is therefore necessary to plan on both a Town-wide and regional basis based upon watershed boundaries to coordinate resource management issues. It also means that such programs as erosion and sediment control, stormwater management, aquifer use and protection, and Open Space Acquisition need to be planned on both a Town-wide and inter-town (regional) basis.		

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall continue to protect lands overlying groundwater reservoirs through its Open Space Acquisition Program. Groundwater protection remains a priority of that program.	Planning Department, GIS Division, Public Water Suppliers	Ongoing
The Town shall continue to work with private water suppliers and adjacent towns to develop compatible water protection plans.	Public Services Department, Planning Department. Public Water Suppliers	Ongoing
The Town shall work with the State to implement salting practices which minimize degradation of ground and surface waters in GAA watershed areas.	Town Manager's Office, Planning Department, Department of Public Works	Short-Term
The Town shall continue to integrate groundwater issues into public education programs: water conservation, household hazardous waste, septic systems, underground storage tanks (home heating fuel), pesticides, and other groundwater information.	Planning Department, Con. Comm., Public Water Suppliers	Ongoing
The Town shall implement ordinances on underground storage tanks to address the issues of tank monitoring strategies, tank removal, and tank prohibitions.	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board, Con. Comm.	Mid-Term
The Town shall implement recommendations for best management practices included within the DEM Stormwater Design and Installation Standards Manual (2011), as amended.	Public Services Department, Planning Department	Long-Term
Policy 2.1 - The Town will work toward protecting the integrity of the varied wetlands which serve many important ecological and economic functions. Protection efforts will be directed toward swamps, marshes, bogs, floodplains, rivers, streams, ponds, wet meadows, aquatic beds, beaches, and all other wetlands as defined by DEM Freshwater Wetlands Act, April 1998, as amended. The Town will pursue both regulatory and nonregulatory options for ensuring the protection of these resources.		
The Town shall work with DEM to establish the regulatory right of the Town to deny and / or condition Freshwater Wetlands Permits based on compliance with the Comprehensive Plan.	Town Manager's Office, Planning Department, Con. Comm.	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall implement recommendations of its RI Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES) Phase II Stormwater Management Plan.	Public Services Department, Town Manager's Office, Town Council	Short-Term
The Town shall adopt a wetland protection ordinance to protect specific areas identified as critical wetland resource areas.	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board, Con. Comm.	Short-Term
The Town shall adopt a river corridor overlay protection district to protect: a) the wildlife habitat associated with the rivers; b) the scenic, rural quality associated with the rivers; and c) the water quality of the rivers.	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board, Con. Comm.	Mid-Term
The Town shall develop a freshwater ponds and lakes management plan to address such issues as docks, public access and land use in the watershed.	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board, Con. Comm.	Mid-Term
The Town shall develop a system to track the State wetland permits to identify areas of wetland disturbance and to monitor compliance with local and State approval conditions.	Planning Department, Con. Comm.	Short-Term
The Town shall develop a wetlands protection checklist for development proposals. This would formalize recommendations made in the RI Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook (1989), as amended, and the DEM Stormwater Design and Installation Standards Manual (2011), as amended. The checklist shall be used by the Conservation Commission and Planning Board to ensure a consistent wetland protection policy.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Con. Comm.	Short-Term
Policy 2.2 - The Town recognizes that the irreplaceable coastal resources need comprehensive protection. The Town will take a regional watershed approach, critical to preserving these fragile resources, to address land use, stormwater runoff, and all point and non-point source pollution. The Town will pursue management strategies consistent with the CRMC's Special Area Management Plan for the Salt Ponds (1999) and the Special Area Management Plan for the Narrow River (1999).		

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall continue implementation of the CRMC Narrow River Special Area Management (SAM) Plan (1999) and the Salt Ponds SAM Plan (1999).	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board	Ongoing
The Town shall continue implementation of the Harbor Management Plan (Nov. 1992, as amended).	Town Manager's Office	Ongoing
The Town shall work with CRMC to ensure the protection of undeveloped barrier beaches in South Kingstown, specifically, Green Hill, Browning, and Moonstone beaches.	Planning Department, Con. Comm.	Short-Term
The Town will work to support the policies outlined in the CRMC Coastal Resources Management Program, 1990, as amended.	Planning Department, Con. Comm.	Ongoing
The Town shall work to minimize development on developed barrier beaches and to ensure that any construction is done in a way which minimizes environmental impact.	Planning Department, Con. Comm.	Ongoing
Policy 2.3 - The Town shall actively communicate with CRMC about local land use goals, policies and regulations for areas with CRMC Special Area Management Plans (SAMP) to ensure that its approvals or other regulatory actions are consistent with this Comprehensive Plan.		
The Town shall work with CRMC to ensure that assents and permits granted in the SAMP areas within the community are consistent with the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Community Plan.	Town Manager's Office, Planning Department, Con. Comm.	Short-Term
Policy 2.4 - The Town will work toward developing corridors of open space throughout the Town to ensure the protection of rivers, streams, wetlands, agricultural lands, scenic features, groundwater reservoirs and recharge areas, and wildlife habitat.		
The Town shall continue its Open Space Acquisition Program to implement this policy.	Planning Department	Ongoing
The Town shall continue to support the concept of corridor zoning to provide for a conservation zone or greenway along selected rivers within the Town, in order to both maintain the rural character of the Town and to protect river resources.	Planning Department	Ongoing

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town will amend its Open Space Acquisition program to support the concept of "pocket parks" or small greenspace areas within the urban portions of the community as a means to provide for amenities within the more densely developed village settings.	Planning Department	Short-Term
Policy 3.1 - The Town supports the preservation of farmland for farming activities and encourages a local healthy food system by providing opportunities for local farmers to sell their products locally.		
The Town shall conduct an audit of existing policies and land use ordinances regarding agricultural activities for consistency with the Rhode Island Agricultural Partnership's Five Year Strategic Plan and recommendations from "South Kingstown: Designing a Healthier Community" to ensure the viability of farming activities and to support a local food system.	Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term
The Town shall utilize a combination of regulatory techniques and amendments (zoning), public and private funding resources (land trusts, easements, purchase of development rights), and economic strategies (providing opportunities to sell/purchase locally grown products) to achieve the necessary protection of farmland and encouragement of farming activities.	Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department	Long-Term
The Town Council shall consider a resolution stating that the Town and the University are supportive of a local food system that includes sustainable agriculture and aquaculture activities.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term
The Town shall encourage local partnerships and information sharing to support an equitable local food system for all residents including low-income populations who may not have equal access to healthy foods based on cost or accessibility.	Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term
The Town shall explore ordinance and regulatory amendments to allow for the cultivation of locally grown foods on private residential and commercial lots, including home-based food production, where appropriate.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term
The Town will promote continued and new participation in the State's Farm, Forest and Open Space Program (FFOS). Promotion efforts will include education of the public and potential participants about the value of the program and active communication with existing participants about the benefits of continuing the program.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall continue to promote participation in the Farm Land Preservation Act as a measure to encourage the continued maintenance of the historic landscape of South Kingstown.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Ongoing
The Town shall support efforts to protect South Kingstown's coastal zone through a variety of land use strategies cited in the Natural and Cultural Resources and Land Use Elements of the Comprehensive Plan.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Long-Term
The Town shall continue its preservation of agricultural lands through the Open Space Acquisition Program.	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board	Ongoing
The Town shall consider developing a farmland/open space overlay district based on prime agricultural soils, existing and historic farm usage, character of the surrounding area, and open space. Development shall be guided to appropriate areas on the property through site plan and review.	Town Manager's Office, Planning Board, Planning Department	Mid-Term
The Town shall consider developing a Transfer of Development Rights Program through either an intra-municipal or inter-municipal program for the purpose of protecting open space and agricultural resources in Town.	Town Manager's Office, Planning Board, Planning Department	Short-Term
The Town shall continue its public education program to make landowners aware of the variety of protection options, environmentally sound management practices, and opportunities to support a local food system that includes sustainable local agriculture and aquaculture activities.	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board	Ongoing
Policy 3.2 - The Town recognizes that there is a significant amount of agricultural activity in South Kingstown and that there is the potential for ground and surface water degradation from fertilizers, pesticides, stormwater, and soil erosion.		
The Town will work with appropriate agencies and implement current best management practices to mitigate the potential contamination of the water resources from these activities.	Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department, Con. Comm., Department of Public Works	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
Policy 4.1 - The Town recognizes that native species of trees and forests are a major natural resource in the Town, providing abatement for noise, water, air, and land pollution. Trees also contribute to the rural character of the Town. The Town supports protection of this valuable resource.		
The Town shall inventory the indigenous habitat types using RI Geographic Information Systems (RIGIS) and identify areas which need protection. The protection program shall be coordinated with State and conservation organization programs.	Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department, Con. Comm., Tree Warden, Department of Public Works	Short-Term
The Town shall review and update Subdivision and Land Development Regulations to provide better tree protection standards for public and private construction and standards for planting and maintenance of required street trees.	Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department, Con. Comm., Tree Warden, Department of Public Works	Short-Term
The Town shall develop an inventory of significant specimen trees within the village areas and establish policies for protecting these trees for preserving community character and supporting a pedestrian-friendly environment.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council, Tree Warden, Department of Public Works	Short-Term
The Town shall implement the RI Urban and Community Forest Plan. According to municipal data South Kingstown is nearly 59 percent forested as of 2010. The objective is to retain/enhance canopy coverage in developed areas and practice sustainable management of large forested tracts, recognizing that land clearance and development will continue.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council, Tree Warden, Department of Public Works	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Conservation Commission shall strengthen its activities in the following areas: a) Pursuing acquisition by gift, purchase, or lease of lands identified as having significant conservation value; b) Managing these lands and improving their value for conservation or passive recreation; c) Increasing active advocacy for environmental legislation at the State and local level; d) Developing public education and information programs; and, e) Work with the Planning Department to develop a tracking system for approvals to monitor compliance with conditions applied to development proposals.	Con. Comm.	Short-Term
Policy 4.2 - The Town recognizes the importance of inventorying, maintaining, and protecting biodiversity as a critical component of the Town's natural resources.		
The Town shall continue to update its inventory of Natural Heritage Areas based on RIDEM designations and new data from RIGIS.	GIS Services Department, Con. Comm.	Ongoing
The Town shall integrate concepts regarding the protection of biodiversity within its Open Space Acquisition program.	GIS Services Department, Con. Comm.	Short-Term
The Town shall continue to require applicants to provide information relative to Natural Heritage Areas and, where appropriate, shall condition applications to protect sensitive biodiversity.	GIS Services Department, Con. Comm.	Ongoing
Policy 4.3 - The Town recognizes that natural resource preservation and conservation will be realized more effectively if protection efforts are coordinated with other towns, State and Federal agencies, and private conservation groups.		
The Town shall continue to work with adjacent towns and the Washington County Regional Planning Council to develop compatible resource protection plans.	Town Manager's Office, Planning Department	Ongoing
The Town shall work with the Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the South Kingstown and Narrow River Land Trusts, the water suppliers, and the State to protect environmentally sensitive areas through acquisition, easements, or purchase of development rights. Additional nonregulatory protection strategies shall be identified.	Town Manager's Office, Planning Department	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
Policy 4.4 - The Town recognizes that a litter control program, coordinated with DEM, is needed to improve the aesthetics of the Town.		
The Town shall implement a litter control program to improve the appearance of the Town's streets, sidewalks, parks, and other public places and to support a pedestrian-friendly environment.	Town Manager's Office, Planning Department, in conjunction with RIDEM	Short-Term
The Town shall continue to provide supportive services to assist the annual coastal clean-up program sponsored by the Ocean Conservancy (International Coastal Cleanup Program) which is coordinated locally by the Audubon Society of Rhode Island.	Planning Department, Town Council, Audubon Society of Rhode Island	Ongoing
Policy 5.1 - The Town will continue to expand its inventory of: a) historic buildings and structures; and, b) historic and prehistoric archaeological sites, ensuring that all aspects and periods of South Kingstown's history are identified and preserved where appropriate.		
The Town shall seek State funding for conducting an update to the South Kingstown's historic resource inventory.	Planning Department, Historic District Commission	Short-Term
The Town shall continue to encourage nominations to the National Register of individual historic buildings and districts and archaeological sites and districts, especially as resources become eligible (sites must historically significant and at least 50 years old).	Planning Department, Historic District Commission	Ongoing
The Town shall consider keeping a copy of its historic resource inventory on file with a local cultural repository such as the Peace Dale Library to be available to the general public for research and reference needs. Other repositories which could be investigated include RI Department of Transportation (RIDOT)'s repository at the Woonsocket Depot.	Planning Department, Historic District Commission, Library Department	Short-Term
Policy 5.2 - The Town will expand the measures available for protecting cultural resources to provide maximum protection to South Kingstown's historic and prehistoric resources.		
The Town shall review and revise where applicable all existing policies and regulations for protecting historic resources within the planning and development review process.	Town Council, Historic District Comm.	Mid-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall amend the Historic District Ordinance to include the elements of the current enabling legislation.	Town Council Planning Board, Planning Department, Historic District Comm.	Mid-Term
The Town shall consider expanding the Historic District Commission authority to review and comment on historic and culturally significant buildings and sites on a Town-wide basis.	Town Council, Historic District Comm.	Short-Term
The Town shall research the establishment of an ordinance requiring a waiting period where a historic building is proposed for demolition. The waiting period would permit alternatives to demolition to be fully explored before any structure is razed.	Town Council, Historic District Comm.	Short-Term
The Town shall consider establishment of a procedure to extend historic zoning (Historic Overlay District) to individual significant structures.	Town Council, Historic District Comm.	Mid-Term
The Town shall review the South Kingstown Residential Design Manual and the Historic Overlay District (see Zoning Ordinance Section 600) and revise as necessary to ensure the protection of cultural resources, including historic buildings, structures, and landscape features, and archeological sites, from adverse impacts of development activities.	Planning Department	Mid-Term
When cultural resources will be impacted, development or subdivision proposals shall be reviewed in consultation with a professional archaeologist or historic preservation specialist to develop an alternative plan or appropriate mitigative action. The professional archaeologist shall be hired by the Town and funded by the applicant.	Planning Department	Ongoing
The Town shall use easements to protect open land, including agricultural land and areas along the shoreline that contribute to the historic context of the Town.	Planning Department, Con. Comm.	Ongoing
The Town shall consider developing, within the limits of state enabling legislation, appropriate ordinances and regulations to help protect features, including field patterns, coast line, stone walls, cemeteries, and signage.	Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department	Mid-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall devise a policy and standards to govern the installation of identification signage for historic districts, properties and sites.	Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department	Short-Term
Policy 5.3 - The Town supports the development and the promotion of the economic benefits of preservation.		
The Town shall participate in programs and utilize resources from the National Trust's Main Street Center, Community Development Block Grants, or other available funding sources.	Town Council Ongoing, Planning Department, Town Manager's Office	Ongoing
The Town shall encourage residents to qualify for state and federal investment tax credits by restoring historic buildings on the National Register of Historic Places.	Planning Department	Ongoing
Policy 5.4 - The Town will preserve the unique identity of the villages that comprise South Kingstown, as well as those cultural features that identify the Town as a whole.		
The Town shall continue to support the development of Village Plans, such as the "South Kingstown Village Study: Villages of Wakefield and Peace Dale", to identify and establish recommendations relative to protecting cultural and historic resources, among other issues, appropriate for each Village.	Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department	Short-Term
The Town shall continue to implement the recommendations of its Village Plans to enhance the unique cultural identities of each village and to protect their cultural and historic resources.	Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department	Short-Term
The Town shall continue to implement the recommendations of "South Kingstown: Designing a Healthier Community" as they relate to supporting healthy village environments and cultural resources.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term
The South Kingstown Residential Design Manual shall be used to direct development according to the traditional character and patterns of the villages. Development shall be focused in and around the villages, in an effort to maintain the rural nature of outlying areas.	Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department	Ongoing

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
Policy 5.5 - The Town will encourage the continued use and adaptive reuse of historic buildings.		
The Town shall adopt a regulatory framework that facilitates adaptive reuse of historic mill buildings and other historic structures to provide incentive for reuse.	Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department	Mid-Term
Policy 5.6 - The Town supports educating residents, as well as visitors, to the importance of preserving cultural resources and of the intrinsic value of historic buildings and sites in South Kingstown.		
The Historic District Commission shall manage the Town's educational efforts regarding South Kingstown's cultural resources.	Town Council, Planning Department	Ongoing
The Historic District Commission shall continue to develop and make available to historic home owners a how-to booklet of do-it-yourself guidelines for restoration.	Planning Department, Historic District Commission	Ongoing
The Town shall, on an ongoing basis, utilize the Town website and other communication vehicles to provide information and increase awareness about the cultural resources of the community. Such outreach shall also provide information about programs and options to protect and enhance these community features.	Planning Department, Historic District Commission	Ongoing
The Town shall support the Museum of Primitive Art and Culture's ongoing Public Education Program which provides outreach and enrichment units that dovetail 3rd and 5th grade curricula.	Town Council, Historic District Commission	Short-Term
The Town shall support the Museum of Primitive Art and Culture's distribution of guided and self-guided walking and driving tours (*The Village of Peace Dale: A Precious Legacy* and *The Indians and Colonists of South County, Rhode Island: A Driving Tour*), as well as the development of future pamphlets that highlight the cultural resources of South Kingstown.	Planning Department, Historic District Commission, Museum of Primitive Art and Culture	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall support the efforts of local organizations (e.g. the Museum of Primitive Art and Culture) to sponsor monthly evening lecture series on subjects related to South Kingstown's history and historic resources in order to increase awareness among the Town's citizens. In addition to general programs, symposia are held on issues of importance to specific groups, such as small business owners, bankers, and realtors who may not be familiar with the benefits of preservation.	Planning Department, Historic District Commission, Museum of Primitive Art and Culture	Short-Term
The Town will continue to support local grassroots organization's efforts to promote the preservation and enhancement of our historic villages, natural and cultural resources using video and other electronic multi-media. (The recent promotional film developed by Peace Dale Neighborhood Revitalization Incorporated (PDNRI) is cited as an example of this type of program).	Planning Department, Historic District Commission	Ongoing
Policy 6.1 - The Town recognizes the need to prepare and plan for continued changes to our coastline and related impacts on our infrastructure from storm events and long term climate change.		
The Town shall coordinate with CRMC and develop policies to protect business owners, residents and the general public from impacts to the coastline, particularly in Matunuck Village.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term
The Town shall continue to build upon and implement the measures identified in the *Multi-Hazard Mitigation Strategy Plan* (2011, as amended).	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Long-Term

Services and Facilities Action Plan

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
Policy 1.1 - The Town will continue to provide a high level of administrative functions.		
The Town shall continue to update and improve its governing structure and local government procedures where appropriate.	Town Manager's Office	Ongoing
The Town shall review the adequacy of municipal government administration services in accordance with internal standards, and in conformance with modern management practice.	Town Council, Town Manager's Office	Short-Term
The Town Manager shall continue to submit the CIP annually. This document addresses the current year with five-year projections. The intent of the CIP is three-fold: to provide a comprehensive community needs statement, to develop a prioritized implementation schedule for meeting the community needs statement, and to provide financial data relative to the community's ability to manage and finance the costs associated with meeting these defined needs.	Town Council, Town Manager's Office	Short-Term
Policy 1.2 - The Town will promote a long-range planning effort to address the cumulative impacts of development.		
The Town shall continue long-range planning efforts relative to infrastructure assessments and improvements in a manner that is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and Town's growth management program.	Planning Board, Planning Department	Ongoing
The Town shall continue to utilize its Village Plans and related planning documents in guiding long-range planning of Town services and facilities.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Ongoing
The Town shall continue to utilize its utility planning documents such as the Water System Supply Management Plans in guiding long-range planning of Town services and facilities.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council, Public Services Department	Ongoing

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
Policy 2.1 - The Town supports an adequately sized wastewater treatment plant which operates in full compliance with all state and federal standards.		
The Town shall comprehensively re-evaluate the adequacy of the wastewater treatment facility every five years when its license is renewed. An annual review shall also be undertaken.	Public Services Department	Short-Term
The Town will expand the centralized sewage treatment facility in an established time frame, based on improvements in technology and the relative needs and fiscal responsibility of each user group (South Kingstown, Narragansett and URI).	Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Public Services Department	Long-Term
Local collection system and pump station improvements shall continue to be made in accordance with the CIP recommendations for pump station improvements and wastewater treatment facility equipment and treatment upgrades.	Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Public Services Department	Long-Term
Policy 2.2 - Future sewer extensions will follow the recommendations of the Land Use Element and will be consistent with the Town's growth management program and the provisions of the Salt Pond Regions Special Area Management Plan.		
Proposals to extend sewer service shall only be permitted within the Future Sewer Service Area as shown in Map 6.1 in this plan. The extension of sewers shall not be a basis for allowing greater density than the base zoning of the area would permit.	Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Public Services Department	Ongoing
The Town will provide sewer service primarily to RM, R-10, selected R-20 zones, and other high and medium high-density residential areas. In unsewered areas with severe septic limitations, only low-density development should occur. High-density development should not occur in areas where there is no public sewer or water available at the time of development.	Planning Department, Town Manager's Office, Public Services Department	Ongoing
Policy 2.3 - The Town will address issues regarding onsite wastewater treatment in a manner that is cost effective, environmentally sound, and ensures the safety of its residents.		
The Town shall continue to administer the Onsite Wastewater Management Ordinance with OWTS inspections in prioritized districts.	Town Manager's Office, Public Services Department	Ongoing

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall continue its efforts to develop complementary protective measures for OWTS to protect critical natural resources.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council, Public Services Department	Ongoing
The Town shall explore arrangements with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) to ensure that applicants seeking permits relative to OWTS systems located in regulated wetland areas must receive their approval from the Town before seeking approval from DEM in light of the Town's additional restrictions on OWTS systems.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council, Public Services Department	Short-Term
Policy 2.4 - The Town will integrate wastewater management into water supply decisions.		
The Planning Department shall work to coordinate the policies of area water suppliers with wastewater management needs.	Planning Department, Public Services Department, Public Water Suppliers	Ongoing
The Town will assess impacts to surface water bodies from potential growth scenarios and wastewater disposal strategies associated with sensitive environmental areas of Town.	Planning Department, Public Services Department	Short-Term
Policy 3.1 - The Town supports an overall water supply management policy and plan that is integrated with the growth management program and long-range utilities plan for the Town.		
The Town shall support the Water System Supply Management Plans that have been prepared by Kingston Water, United Water, the Town of South Kingstown and URI for each service area.	Planning Department, Town Council, Public Water Suppliers	Short-Term
The Town shall continue to work to protect the quality and quantity of potable water produced from sole-source aquifers through the use of The Town's growth management program and the Groundwater Protection Overlay District.	Planning Department, Public Services Department, Public Water Suppliers	Ongoing

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall continue to explore the application of water conservation in its municipal facilities and through its South Shore and Middlebridge water systems during periods of drought or high systems demand.	Public Services Department, United Water of RI	Ongoing
The Town shall continue to implement outdoor water bans and/or rationing as necessary to preserve system capacity for public safety and general usage during periods of drought and/or high system demand.	Town Council, Public Services Department, Public Water Suppliers	Ongoing
Policy 3.2 - The Town advocates the protection of a safe drinking water supply as a major priority for South Kingstown. The Town is committed to the establishment of programs for aquifer protection and groundwater resource management.		
The Town shall continue its Open Space acquisition program to protect groundwater quality through direct purchase of development rights for the most important aquifer recharge areas.	Planning Department, Public Water Suppliers	Ongoing
Policy 3.3 – The Town recognizes the need to prioritize water uses (e.g.: residential vs. non-residential).		
The Town supports the extension of water services in a manner which is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.	Planning Department, Public Water Suppliers	Ongoing
Policy 3.4 - The Town supports the extension of water services in a manner which is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.		
Town shall evaluate future drinking water extension proposals with regard to the location of existing and proposed water and sewer lines, problem areas, and the overall growth pattern endorsed by the Comprehensive Plan and Land Use 2025.	Town Council, Public Services Department, Public Water Suppliers	Short-Term
The Town shall give priority to waterline extension for areas with contamination of well water. Drinking water contamination caused by constituents for which there are federal standards also will be given priority consideration.	Town Council, Public Services Department, Public Water Suppliers	Ongoing
Policy 3.5 - The Town will continue to comply with the Rhode Island Department of Health rules pertaining to public drinking water.		

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town Public Services Department shall continue to conduct an annual evaluation of compliance with standards and a comprehensive five-year evaluation. Any necessary system improvements shall be addressed in the Town's annual operating budget and the six-year CIP.	Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Public Services Department	Ongoing
Policy 3.6 - The Town supports measures to provide a sustainable, uninterrupted supply of potable water to its residents.		
The Town, URI, United Water of Rhode Island and the Kingston Water District, shall implement the requirements presented in the Rhode Island Drought Management Plan, State Guide Plan Element 724, June 2002.	Public Services Department, United Water of RI, URI, Kingston Water District	Short-Term
Develop drought planning measures that consider factors beyond simply providing interconnections between the Town's public water suppliers. This is particularly relevant now that the Town is receiving water via United Water of Rhode Island via the Chipuxet sub-basin.	Planning Department, Public Services Department, Public Water Suppliers	Short-Term
The Town shall work with local water suppliers to construct interconnections between water services to ensure a continual supply of potable water during low flow droughts and to address emergency spill response.	Planning Department, Public Services Department, in conjunction with adjacent towns and public water suppliers	Long-Term
The Town shall continue to work with the RI Water Resources Board, United Water of Rhode Island, URI, and Kingston Water to ensure that emergency water supply is available.	Planning Department, Public Services Department, RI Water Resources Board, United Water of Rhode Island, URI, and Kingston Water District	Ongoing

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall research potential state/federal resources to fund the realignment of the South Shore Water System 12-inch main which runs along Matunuck Beach Road as well as the dunes of East Matunuck Beach.	Town Manager's Office, Public Services Department	Short-Term
Policy 4.1 - The Town shall continue to maintain or exceed the State's minimum goals of 35% recycling rate and 50% solid waste diversion rate.		
The Town shall continue its community recycling program through the "bag and tag" program at the Rose Hill Transfer Station.	Town Manager's Office, Public Services Department	Ongoing
The Town shall promote the new "Recycle Together RI" Program through public education and outreach.	Town Manager's Office, Public Services Department	Mid-Term
The Town shall assist licensed private haulers with meeting or exceeding their curbside recycling diversion rates.	Town Manager's Office, Public Services Department	Ongoing
The Town shall continue to promote special waste collection added to the Rose Hill Regional Transfer Station (rigid plastic, used cooking oil).	Town Manager's Office, Public Services Department	Ongoing
The Town shall increase special waste collection at the Rose Hill Regional Transfer Station to include scrap metal and other possible recyclable material.	Town Manager's Office, Public Services Department	Mid-Term
Policy 4.2 - The Town shall continue to participate in the monitoring of its landfills to maintain public health and safety.		
The Town shall continue the long-term monitoring plans for the recently closed landfills at the Rose Hill Solid Waste Area and the West Kingston Solid Waste Area.	Town Council, Town Manager's Office	Ongoing
The Town shall continue to follow the terms of the January 3, 2003 Consent Decree with EPA and DEM as required.	Town Council, Town Manager's Office	Ongoing
Policy 5.1 - The Town will continue its long-range improvement programs for improvements to roads, bridges, sidewalks, bike paths, stormdrains, and parks in conformance with the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan.		

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
Infrastructure improvement programs will continue to be prioritized through the CIP and the South Kingstown Transportation Improvement Plan, and funded by the Town or through the State Transportation Improvement Plan.`	Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Public Services Department	Ongoing
Policy 5.2 - The Town supports an adequately staffed and equipped Public Services Department.		
The Town shall continue to evaluate Public Services Department staffing and equipment needs required to accomplish proposed work programs outlined in the CIP and address day to day maintenance and upkeep requirements.	Town Manager's Office, Public Services Department	Ongoing
Policy 5.3 - The Town will minimize development along existing or future utility transmission lines, which connect high-density areas.		
The Town shall revise zoning and subdivision regulations to require appropriate setbacks and buffers to utility easements to protect residential development and allow for the proper functioning of the utility.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Mid-Term
Policy 6.1 - The Town recognizes the importance of promoting high standards of design for stormwater management systems.		
The Town shall explore implementing innovative standards for drainage design utilizing such techniques as LID (low impact development) and flexible paving surface requirements to promote on-site treatment and infiltration where appropriate.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term
The Town shall continue to explore improvements to stormwater management systems based on recommendations included in the "South Kingstown Village Study: Villages of Wakefield and Peace Dale."	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term
The Town shall implement recommendations for best management practices included within the DEM Stormwater Design and Installation Standards Manual (2011), as amended.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Long-Term
The Town will consider the establishment of standards for minimum rights of way in subdivisions that will accommodate the installation of stormwater management systems and utilities while requiring pavement widths be the minimum necessary for functional requirements.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
Policy 6.2 - The Town supports implementation of the DEM's Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES) Phase II Stormwater Management program.		
The Town shall comply with RIPDES Phase II requirements for stormwater management in municipal separate storm sewer systems. This program is intended to improve the quality of receiving waters by reducing the quantity of pollutants discharged during storm events. RIPDES Phase II stormwater regulations also require the inventory of existing municipal stormwater facilities.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term
The current six-year CIP identifies, funds, and schedules various drainage improvement projects within the Town. These projects shall continue to be addressed through the CIP process.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Ongoing
Policy 7.1 - The Town supports maintaining an appropriate level of service through the professional law enforcement staff.		
The Police Department shall continue to conduct an annual analysis of existing and future needs, in coordination with the writing of the Town Budget and CIP. A more comprehensive analysis shall be performed every five years.	Police Department, Town Manager's Office	Ongoing
Annual measurements which will help assess performance shall include such items as number and experience with service calls, crime rate and type, and accident reports. Results of this analysis shall be checked against personnel and equipment.	Police Department, Town Manager's Office	Short-Term
Town staff shall continue to assess emergency medical services program needs to ensure that appropriate service levels are met.	Police Department, Town Manager's Office	Ongoing
Policy 7.2 - The Town will continue to assess the adequacy of police facilities and equipment, including the need to increase off-road patrols.		
Equipment purchases shall be made in conformance with the Town's six-year CIP.	Town Council, Police Department, Town Manager's Office	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall consider construction of a separate storage building for evidence processing and evidence storage. This building should be secure, have sophisticated air handling, and include a garage space with lift.	Town Council, Police Department, Town Manager's Office	Short-Term
Policy 7.3 - The Town will maintain a level of police performance which meets the Police Chief's Association standards.		
Such a certification program has been planned and is being considered for adoption by the State. Until the State implements such a program, the South Kingstown Police Department will follow its present internal evaluation process. The Police Department has implemented several of the recommendations made during a recent audit conducted by the RI Interlocal Trust.	Police Department, Town Manager's Office	Short-Term
Policy 7.4 - The Town will maintain a police presence in the public schools, to strengthen relationships between the police department, school staff, and students, and to enforce security, as necessary.		
The Police Department shall continue the "Community Works Program" and has considered negotiations with the school superintendent to create a "School Resource Officer."	Police Department, Town Manager's Office	Short-Term
The Police Department shall investigate flexible funding sources which would benefit the entire department's long-range policing strategies.	Police Department, Town Manager's Office	Short-Term
Policy 8.1 - The Town recognizes the need for an adequate number of well trained volunteers for the Union Fire District and Kingston Fire Districts.		
In cooperation with the Union and Kingston Fire Districts, the Town will explore the development of a recruitment and incentive based program to attract and retain volunteers for these organizations.	Town Manager's Office, Fire Districts	Mid-Term
The Town will encourage the Fire Districts to participate in required training programs to meet state mandates.	Town Manager's Office, Fire Districts	Ongoing
Policy 8.2 - The Town's fire districts shall meet the equipment standards promulgated under state law.		

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The fire districts shall continue efforts to maintain adequate equipment.	Town Manager's Office, Fire Districts	Ongoing
Policy 8.3 - The Town supports the efforts of the fire districts to improve their International Organization for Standardization (ISO) ratings and general level of operation.		
The "Improvements Statements" written for the Fire Districts by the Insurance Services Office shall be reviewed by the Union and Kingston Fire District administrations to determine if there are cost-effective ways to improve their respective district ratings, which are based on fire suppression capabilities. These reports shall be included in their long-term plans.	Town Manager's Office, Fire Districts	Short-Term
The Town shall evaluate the fire districts' compliance with ISO standards annually to coincide with the annual budgets. The Town will consider preparing a ten-year implementation plan as that is the time interval for ISO evaluation and classification.	Town Manager's Office, Fire Districts	Short-Term
The fire districts shall use the compliance standards to develop their own internal evaluation criteria, to be used annually, for the purpose of assessing existing and future needs.	Town Manager's Office, Fire Districts	Short-Term
Policy 9.1 - The high quality of South Kingstown's education program shall be maintained and continually improved.		
New programs shall be considered and existing quality shall be maintained.	School Department, School Committee	Short-Term
The Town shall continue to comply with the Board of Regents standards for education facility construction approval and funding.	School Department, School Committee	Ongoing
The School Department shall conduct more comprehensive five-year evaluations increments of the Rhode Island Basic Education Program.	School Department, School Committee	Short-Term
Policy 9.2 - The Town supports development of school facilities to keep pace with changes within the school age population and with the defined educational programs of the school system.		

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall address school facility needs through the six-year plans included in the annual CIP.	School Department, School Committee, Town Council, Town Manager's Office	Short-Term
Policy 10.1 - To meet the community needs for library services, the Town will expand and renovate library facilities and parking areas.		
Expansion of public service and non-public service areas of the main library in Peace Dale is required to meet the needs of the Town-wide system (including the needs of the two branch libraries which cannot be expanded due to property boundary, historic, and structural constraints). A larger youth services room, increased book stack capacity, increased space for public access computers, quiet study rooms and a new public meeting room with a larger seating capacity represent unmet system needs.	Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Library Board of Trustees	Long-Term
The Library Board wants to resolve the parking situation at Kingston in the best interest of the library and its patrons with the goal of an expanded parking at Kingston.	Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Library Board of Trustees	Short-Term
The Library Board recognizes that increased parking at Peace Dale is essential to meet the future program needs of the library.	Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Library Board of Trustees	Short-Term
Policy 10.2 - The Town supports compliance with all State requirements and standards including the Office of Library & Information Service's Minimum Standard for Rhode Island Public Libraries, adopted by the Library Board of Rhode Island in 2000.		
The Town Library System shall continue to comply with the Office of Library & Information Service standards in order to continue to receive state funding.	Town Manager's Office, Library Board of Trustees	Ongoing
The Library shall continue its present course of annually assessing needs according to internal standards of performance based on actual usage. This annual assessment shall continue to coordinate with assessments for funding through the Town's operating and capital budgets, and grants requirements. Additionally, a more comprehensive review is needed every five years, especially regarding large-scale facility improvements.	Town Manager's Office, Library Board of Trustees	Ongoing

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
Policy 11.1 - The South Kingstown Senior Services Department shall coordinate and centralize senior citizen programs and facilities to offer community-based, rather than institutional, services.		
The Senior Services Department shall be a facilitator in coordinating this effort. The Senior Services Center Program's mission is to provide a focal point where adults can access services and programs designed to support their independence, enrich their quality of life, and promote optimal aging. Completion of "The Center" in 2000 enabled consolidation of many senior services including the Adult Day Services Program (not on site), the Senior Nutrition Program, Senior Transportation Program, and the Senior Services Center.	Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Director of Senior Services	Short-Term
The Senior Services Center program shall continue the operation and expansion of services, including advocacy and technical assistance, particularly through Hospital Elder Liaison Program with South County Hospital, Seniors Helping Other, Inc., and other ongoing programs. The Senior Services Department's goal is to bring various senior service groups and organizations together to coordinate their actives and integrate their work.	Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Director of Senior Services	Ongoing
The Senior Services Department shall expand the Adult Day Services Facility in order to better accommodate the special needs of its senior participants.	Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Director of Senior Services	Long-Term
Policy 12.1 - The Senior Services Department will address the need for alternative transportation for programs.		
The Senior Services Department shall investigate opportunities to reduce reliance on private transportation through attempting to secure additional use of Senior Services buses; and seek funding opportunities to purchase a twenty passenger van for the Department's use.	Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Director of Senior Services	Short-Term
Policy 12.2 - The Town of South Kingstown will pursue the development of Greenways listed in the Town's Greenways Master Plan.		

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall pursue development of the following corridors presented in the June, 2002 Greenways Master Plan: a) Expansion of the Peace Dale Village Bike Path; b) Expansion of the William C. O'Neill Bike Path to include a connection to URI and Peace Dale Village Bike Path; c) Expansion of the DuVal Trail; d) Expansion of the Saugatucket River trail system; and **e)** Development of the South Shore Beach Trail.	Town Manager's Office, Planning/Parks and Recreation Departments, Con. Comm., South Kingstown Land Trust, Friends of the South County Bike Path, Saugatucket River Heritage Corridor Coalition	Long-Term
Policy 12.3 - The Department of Parks and Recreation will develop additional indoor recreation space for community activities to support a healthy environment.		
The Town will evaluate the appropriate timing for construction of an indoor gymnasium to meet the expanded recreational and program needs of the community. Municipal and school bonds totaling $3.15 million for construction of a new facility were approved by taxpayers in 2004 and 2006. In 2010, the Town purchased 13.5 acres of land known as the former Dominic Savio property which will be land banked for the present and may be used as the site for the community gymnasium. The gym would be intended for use by both the school and municipal programs. The community gym is included in the Town's Capital Improvement Budget program.	Town Manager's Office, Parks and Recreation Department	Short-Term
The Department of Parks and Recreation shall consider expansion of the use of the Peace Dale Office Building for providing community recreation services. The expanded facilities may include an art studio, additional art performance space, and general programming areas.	Town Manager's Office, Parks and Recreation Department	Short-Term
Policy 12.4 - The Town will assess the potential construction of recreational facilities on the Rose Hill Superfund Solid Waste Area.		
The Town and Department of Parks and Recreation shall explore the feasibility of different "best uses" for the site including passive recreational facilities.	Town Manager's Office, Parks and Recreation Department	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
Policy 12.5 - The Department of Parks and Recreation will complete improvements to the Neighborhood Guild that will provide additional programming and office space.		
The Department of Parks and Recreation will convert third floor storage rooms in The Neighborhood Guild into additional program space.	Town Manager's Office, Parks and Recreation Department	Long-Term
Policy 12.6 – The Parks and Recreation Department will explore funding opportunities for improvements to and protection of the Town Beach.		
The Department of Parks and Recreation will seek funding for the relocation of the Town Beach Pavilion outside of the 500 year flood zone; and explore options for erosion control and mitigation.	Town Manager's Office, Parks and Recreation Department	Short-Term
Policy 12.7 - The Department of Parks and Recreation will significantly expand youth and teen programming efforts.		
The Department of Parks and Recreation shall expand efforts to provide youth and teens positive alternatives for their free time, concentrating on providing activities between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on weekdays and on Friday and Saturday nights.	Town Manager's Office, Parks and Recreation Department, Housing and Police Departments, South Kingstown Partnership for Prevention, South County YMCA and other social service agencies.	Short-Term
Policy 12.8 – The Departments of Parks and Recreation and Senior Services will offer on-line registration/reservation capabilities to the public as a more streamlined and efficient customer service function.		

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Departments in collaboration with the Information Technology division will assess service-specific data management applications based on the unique needs of the Department; and select the most appropriate and cost effective tool for effectively managing data and offering on line registration services to the public.	Town Manager's Office, Parks and Recreation Department	Short-Term
Policy 13.1 - The Town supports an expanded public awareness of potential emergency situations and appropriate citizen response.		
The Police Department maintains an ongoing emergency management response program with the RI Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. As issues relating to Homeland Security arise, the Town shall respond in accordance with Federal and State protocols.	Planning Department, Police Department	Ongoing
Policy 13.2 - The Town will ensure that police officers and other key emergency management personnel receive proper training.		
The Town shall continue to offer both on- and off-site training and education to ensure that staff members are proficient in the latest programs, protocol, techniques, and methods.	Town Manager's Office, Police Department	Ongoing
Policy 13.3 - Institute appropriate measures to reduce potential storm damage caused by windblown trees.		
The Town shall re-examine the existing tree trimming program to redirect efforts towards preventative maintenance in areas more likely to suffer storm damage, particularly coastal areas.	Town Manager's Office, Police Department, Planning Department	Short-Term
Policy 13.4 - The Town will encourage development of programs and policies that foster preventative measures that mitigate potential natural disaster damage.		
The Town shall examine its present guidelines and regulations to see where possible measures can be instituted and encouraged to reduce storm damage potential.	Planning Department	Short-Term
Policy 14.1 - The Town recognizes the relationship between adequate infrastructure and economic development potential in the community.		

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall integrate any known limitations on its infrastructure into the local regulatory process by requiring impact analyses where appropriate.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Public Services Department	Short-Term
The Town shall research and pursue funding to assess drainage problems that regularly occur during heavy rain events.	Planning Department, Public Services Department	Short-Term
The Town shall work with URI to continue and expand transportation opportunities for students and staff to access local commercial and service areas.	Town Manager's Office, Planning Department, Public Services Department, URI	Ongoing
The Town shall, through its annual CIP, consider infrastructure upgrades and enhancements that support the economic development needs of the local business community.	Town Manager's Office, Planning Department, Public Services Department	Short-Term
The Town shall continue to actively engage with the South County Hospital to ensure that local policies, infrastructure improvements, and regulations do not hinder initiatives that are consistent with local and regional needs.	Town Manager's Office, Planning Department, Public Services Department	Ongoing

Open Space and Recreation Action Plan

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
Policy 1.1 - The Town shall continue to preserve land which is primarily undeveloped and which consists of open, agricultural, or littoral property, including existing and future well fields and aquifer recharge areas, fresh and saltwater marshes and adjoining uplands, barrier beaches, wildlife habitats, land providing access to or views of the ocean, harbors and ponds, land for unpaved bicycling, bridge and hiking paths and for future passive recreational use, and land for agricultural use.		
Town shall continue to implement the Open Space Project Funding Policy.	Town Council, Town Manager's Office,	Ongoing

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
	Planning Department	
The Town shall continue to utilize "*A Guide for Protecting Open Space in South Kingstown"* prepared by the Community Partnership Program of the South Kingstown Land Trust in evaluating potential land acquisitions or development rights purchases.	Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Planning Department	Ongoing
The Town shall participate in acquisition of land in fee simple or in conservation and preservation restrictions on real property.	Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Planning Department	Ongoing
The Town shall continue to utilize funds generated through the Fair Share Development Fee (collected at the time a building permit is issued for new residential construction and assessed as outlined in the annual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), for the purchase and/or development of open space, conservation, park and recreational land.	Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Planning Department	Ongoing
The Town shall document the economic impact of open space acquisition by indicating the number of housing units prevented, how many students were avoided in the public school system, and the estimated lost tax revenue (both prior to acquisition and if residentially developed). The economic assessment shall include the cost of annual maintenance of the property and include a plan to maintain the property as open space.	Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Planning Department	Short-Term
The Town shall continue to provide educational opportunities for Town Staff, Board and Commission members, and citizens regarding the importance of utilizing a watershed-based approach within land conservation planning.	Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Planning Department	Ongoing
The Town shall consider the connectivity and accessibility of open space and greenway projects in its criteria for acquisition.	Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Planning Department	Ongoing

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall actively coordinate land acquisition and development with such private, non-profit organizations as the R.I. Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, and the South Kingstown and Narrow River Land trusts as well as with public agencies which are actively pursuing similar goals. The Town will encourage development or protection of community spaces on private, state, and federal properties which will enhance leisure experiences for local and non-local residents without detracting from the primary goals of the organizations.	Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Planning Department	Ongoing
The Town shall continue to secure state and federal funding for open space acquisition.	Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Planning Department	Ongoing
Policy 2.1 – To create a system of greenways throughout Town to protect and preserve open space and natural resources, to ensure the connectivity of these resources, and to increase accessibility for all residents.		
The Town shall encourage accessible open space and recreation facilities within walking distance of all homes in the community to support a healthy living environment.	Planning Board, Planning Department	Ongoing
The Town shall preserve the following greenways which follow natural geologic or geographic features: Saugatucket River, Marina Park, Upper Salt Pond, Matunuck Hills kettle pond/moraine area, Chipuxet River corridor (Hundred Acre Pond - Thirty Acre Pond - Great Swamp - Worden Pond), Queens River corridor, Narrow River watershed in coordination with similar greenway areas in Narragansett and North Kingstown, and South Shore Area as identified in the South Shore Management Plan.	Planning Board, Planning Department	Long-Term
The Town shall continue to ensure that identified greenways will be protected from the adverse effects of future growth and development through the zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations, land use policies, and open space acquisition.	Planning Board, Planning Department	Ongoing

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall continue to implement its Greenways Master Plan. The following greenways shall be considered high priority resources for expansion, preservation and maintenance: - Expansion of the William C. O'Neill Bike Path to include a connection to the University of Rhode Island and Narragansett Pier. - Expansion of the DuVal Trail - Development of the Saugatucket River trail system - Development of the South Shore Beach Trail	Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department	Ongoing
The Town shall amend regulations to encourage new development to set aside green space that is well-designed in terms of pedestrian compatibility and functionality and, where possible, strengthens the Town's existing greenways network.	Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department	Ongoing
Policy 1.3 – The Town supports preservation of open space within its villages areas, recognizing that smaller parcels are valuable to preserve habitat, to support a healthy environment, and to improve the quality of life of village residents.		
The Town shall amend the Open Space Project Funding Policy to include smaller parcels in its criteria.	Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department	Short-Term
The Town shall actively pursue specific small parcels within its village areas for the establishment of "pocket parks" and landscaped areas where appropriate.	Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department	Short-Term
Policy 1.4 – The Town shall investigate means to provide open space buffers between current commercial and residential uses.		
The Town shall identify specific parcels abutting existing commercial uses that may be used as a buffer and explore the options to purchase or conserve the land for open space or recreational uses.	Planning Board, Planning Department	Short-Term
Policy 2.1 – The Town shall provide active and passive recreational services to support a healthy environment and to meet Town, state and federal requirements.		

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall pursue available grant funding through such State and Federal sources as the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM), the Rhode Island Water Resources Board, and the Federal Highway Administration.	Town Manager's Office, Parks and Recreation Department, Planning Department	Ongoing
The Town shall pursue projects that build on its existing infrastructure in order to support new recreation resources that are well connected to existing bike paths, foot paths, parks, open spaces, and other recreational services and facilities.	Town Manager's Office, Parks and Recreation Department, Planning Department	Ongoing
Policy 3.1 – The Town shall protect all current and historic rights of way to natural and cultural resources.		
The Town shall work with the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) to identify and protect rights-of-way to coastal areas.	Town Manager's Office, Planning Department	Ongoing
The Town shall work to educate adjacent landowners about public access to the shore via paper streets and other deeded access ways in proximity to their properties.	Town Manager's Office, Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term
Policy 4.1 – The Town shall continue to manage beaches under its jurisdiction for the benefit of the community.		
The Town shall place controls or other obstacles to motor vehicular traffic along the access-ways of ocean beaches which are under Town control.	Town Manager's Office, Police Department	Short-Term
Policy 4.2 – The Town shall support public access and preservation of natural habitat for beaches not under its jurisdiction.		
The Town shall encourage open access to ocean beaches within the Town by all citizens and will discourage private enclaves and the erection and/or replacement of fences and barriers.	Town Manager's Office, Planning Department	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall continue to press the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to find ways to provide public access and enjoyment of Moonstone Beach, in accordance with provisions of the State Constitution, and to ensure equal protection for the natural habitat.	Town Manager's Office, Planning Department	Ongoing
Policy 5.1 – The Town shall continue to use existing vacant and/or underutilized Town-owned lands to meet recreation and open space needs.		
The Town shall identify specific Town-owned lands for the potential conversion to recreation and open space facilities.	Town Manager's Office, Parks and Recreation Department, Planning Department	Short-Term
To service the northeast area of South Kingstown, the Town will investigate the development of community park facilities within the reclaimed areas at the Rose Hill Transfer Station.	Town Manager's Office, Parks and Recreation Department, Planning Department	Short-Term
The Town shall expand public events and recreation opportunities at the Town Beach.	Town Manager's Office, Parks and Recreation Department	Short-Term
The Town shall complete construction of the Town's first dog park.	Town Manager's Office, Parks and Recreation Department	Short-Term
Policy 5.2 – The Town shall continue to use school properties to provide recreation space within the limits of safety, maintenance, security and contractual issues.		
The School and Parks and Recreation Departments shall coordinate activities, especially related to construction of new school facilities, so that they may be designed to maximize land utilization and minimize municipal financial resources for maximum recreational benefit to the community.	Town Manager's Office, School Department, Parks and Recreation	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
	Department	
Policy 5.3 – The Town shall assess a fee on new residential development for the purchase and development of new municipal parkland.		
The Town shall continue to implement its Fair Share Development Fee program as revised annually based upon the analysis contained in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP).	Town Manager's Office, Town Council, Planning Department	Ongoing
Policy 5.4 – The Parks and Recreation Department will develop additional indoor recreation space for community activities to support a healthy environment.		
In cooperation with the School Department, the Town will develop a community facility that will include a gymnasium and youth and teen programming areas.	Parks and Recreation Department, School Department	Long-Term
Research the establishment of additional indoor ice facilities in South Kingstown.	Parks and Recreation Department, School Department	Short-Term
Policy 5.5 – The Parks and Recreation Department shall continue to expand youth and teen programming efforts.		
The Parks and Recreation Department shall continue to expand efforts to provide youth and teens positive alternatives for their free time, with a focus on providing activities between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on weekdays and on Friday and Saturday nights.	Parks and Recreation Department	Ongoing
The Parks and Recreation Department shall continue to partner with other community recreation providers to assess and improve programming for youth and teens. This will include providing capital improvements, programmatic emphasis, and promotional efforts to ensure that facilities and programs adequately address the community's needs.	Parks and Recreation Department Community Recreation Providers	Ongoing

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Parks and Recreation Department shall partner with other community recreation providers to increase awareness of financial aid and scholarship opportunities for recreation programming throughout the community. This will include evaluating and implementing new methods for communicating financial aid opportunities.	Parks and Recreation Department Community Recreation Providers	Short-Term
Policy 6.1 – The Town shall continue to provide an active maintenance and rehabilitation program and schedule to maintain and upgrade existing sites and facilities to ensure safe and high quality experience for all users.		
The Town shall continue to assess and inventory its existing sites and facilities to evaluate the needs for facility upgrades to meet the needs of all users.	Town Manager's Office, Recreation Department, Planning Department	Ongoing
The Town shall continue to schedule maintenance and rehabilitation programs in the annual CIP.	Town Manager's Office, Recreation Department, Planning Department	Ongoing
The Town shall explore opportunities for community groups and agencies to take on a more direct role and involvement in maintenance and service functions.	Town Manager's Office, Recreation Department, Planning Department	Short-Term
The Town shall outsource a majority of non-park facilities as outlined in the CIP. This outsourcing will provide Town maintenance crews with additional capacity to absorb the new facilities.	Town Manager's Office, Recreation Department, Planning Department	Short-Term
The Town shall pursue state, federal, and private funding opportunities for maintenance.	Town Manager's Office, Recreation Department, Planning Department	Ongoing
Policy 6.2 – The Town shall improve recreational facilities to meet the current and projected needs of all users.		

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall improve the accessibility of the Town-owned recreation facilities, where appropriate, to ensure Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility to Parks and Recreation Department activities.	Town Manager's Office, Recreation Department	Short-Term
The Town shall complete improvements to the Neighborhood Guild to provide additional programming and office space.	Town Manager's Office, Recreation Department	Short-Term
Policy 7.1 –The Town shall continue to sponsor public workshops, seminars, and other outreach tools to help inform its citizenry of recreation programs and provide a means for citizen and stakeholder input.		
The Town Council will appoint, where appropriate, special committees from neighborhood groups or special user groups to assist in the preparation of development plans for proposed park and recreation facilities.	Town Council, Planning Department, Parks and Recreation Department	Short-Term
The Town shall encourage improved coordination and mutual support between local businesses, recreation providers, and the Recreation Department.	Parks and Recreation Department, Chamber of Commerce	Short-Term
The Town shall continue to explore and maintain the use of innovative tools to raise awareness of existing recreation resources and increase public accessibility. This will include the development of and updates to an interactive web-based map that will provide citizens with a mix of visual and narrative information regarding recreation resources.	Town Manager's Office, Parks and Recreation Department	Short-Term

Circulation Action Plan

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
Policy 1.1 - The Town shall make every effort to encourage the viability of public transit use as an alternative to the single-occupant vehicle as a means of transportation.		

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall work with RIPTA, RIDOT and AMTRAK to encourage public transportation usage by local residents, businesses, visitors and URI staff and students.	Planning Department	Short-Term
The Town shall encourage RIPTA and RIDOT to devise and implement improvements to public transit facilities and services within the and among the village areas in a manner that supports a walkable, multi-modal approach to transportation.	Planning Department	Short-Term
The Town shall encourage use of improved RIPTA service by students and staff between URI and surrounding shopping opportunities.	Planning Department	Short-Term
The Town shall encourage RIPTA to provide FLEX or regularly scheduled service to social service and mental health offices in South Kingstown, Charlestown, and Narragansett. This is especially important for local residents who are transit dependent.	Planning Department	Short-Term
The Town, in cooperation with RIDOT and RIDEM, shall encourage the use of shuttle buses to the beach areas during summer months in an effort to reduce traffic congestion on Route 1.	Planning Department, Town Manager's Office	Short-Term
The Town will continue to support the South Kingstown "Trolley Program" as a creative alternative transit program that combines congestion mitigation, local economic development and regional tourism promotion. The Town and "Trolley Program" providers will assess the feasibility of new routes for trolley service based on recommendations and outreach outcomes defined in "South Kingstown: Designing a Healthier Community."	Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term
The Town shall consider the potential for state-funded trolley service in Wakefield as an economic development incentive as part of downtown revitalization. RIPTA should be encouraged to provide appropriately designed bus shelters at popular bus stops.	Town Manager's Office, Planning department	Short-Term
Policy 1.2 – The Town shall prepare for the possibility of commuter rail service to Kingston Station to augment AMTRAK service.		
The Town shall review use of Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) commuter rail service at Wickford Junction (once operational) by Town residents and assist RIDOT in assessing the demand for the anticipated extension of commuter rail service to Kingston.	Town Manager's Office, Planning Department	Long-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall solicit technical assistance from the Statewide Planning Program relative to the analysis of land use regulations in West Kingston given the potential for commuter rail service to Kingston Station.	Town Manager's Office, Planning Department	Short-Term
The Town shall work with RIDOT to determine the potential demand for commuter rail service to points south of Town (Westerly, RI and New London CT).	Planning Department, Public Services Department	Short-Term
The Town shall continue their involvement with URI in discussions of an alternative MBTA station at the university.	Planning Department, URI	Ongoing
Policy 1.3 – The Town shall facilitate pedestrian improvements throughout the community to encourage walking as a healthier, more sustainable option to the single occupant vehicle.		
The Town shall continue to maintain existing sidewalks and to construct new sidewalks where needed. The Town shall encourage construction of sidewalks on collector type roads and within a half-mile radius of schools. The Town shall encourage the connection of sidewalks and/or bicycle paths within and between new subdivisions.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Department of Public Services	Ongoing
The Town shall continue to evaluate and inventory the conditions of existing and potential pedestrian networks to establish priority improvement areas. The Town will work with applicable organizations community groups to conduct pedestrian inventories as defined in "South Kingstown: Designing a Healthier Community" and subsequent engagement efforts.	Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term
New sidewalk construction shall include provisions for wheelchair ramp access in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Department of Public Services	Short-Term
The Town shall continue to establish well-defined crosswalk pavement markings and enforce regulations for motorists to STOP for pedestrians in crosswalks.	Department of Public Services, Police Department	Ongoing

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall promote pedestrian safety and connectivity in village areas through encouraging traffic calming and street crossing improvements where appropriate on state right-of-ways such as bump-outs, mid-crossing signage, mid-crossing refuge island, raised crosswalks, chatter strips, and ladder striping of crosswalks. The Town shall consider related improvements to striping, signage and other non-structural treatments for Town roads where appropriate.	Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term
The Town shall advocate for safe, human-scaled pedestrian connections between businesses on Old Tower Road and Kingstown Road. These connections should be attractively landscaped and properly maintained.	Town Manager's Office, Planning Department	Short-Term
In accordance with the "Town of South Kingstown's New Sidewalk Policy" (adopted 9/24/01) the Town shall continue to implement sidewalk construction and improvements through the Capital Improvement Plan. To improve safety, sidewalks should be considered on Route 108 from Curtis Corner north to Route 138.	Planning Department, Department of Public Services, RIDOT	Short-Term
The Town shall pursue partnerships and programming that support safe walking to school such as the Annual Walk to School Day.	Planning Department, School Department	Short-Term
Policy 1.4 – The Town shall facilitate bicycle improvements throughout the community to encourage biking as a healthier, more sustainable option to the single-occupant vehicle.		
The Town shall encourage the use of bicycles and, where feasible, may request that RIDOT add bicycle lanes on all new or upgraded State roads. Where feasible, bicycle lanes will be added to existing Town-owned collector roads.	Town Manager's Office, Planning Department, Department of Public Services	Short-Term
A network of bicycle and footpaths shall be developed to encourage alternative transportation modes in the central areas of Town.	Planning Department, Town Manager's Office	Long-Term
The Town shall continue to evaluate and inventory the conditions of existing and potential bicycle networks to establish priority improvement areas. The Town will work with applicable organizations community groups to conduct pedestrian inventories as defined by "South Kingstown: Designing a Healthier Community" and subsequent engagement efforts.	Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall continue to identify and support improvements to the William C. O'Neill Bike Path such as implementing signage improvements and increasing bike/pedestrian friendly connections to the path.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Friends of the William C. O'Neill Bike Path	Ongoing
The Town shall work to ensure that bike paths are continuous to avoid piecemeal, segmented construction with potentially dangerous on-road sections.	Planning Department, Department of Public Services	Long-Term
The Town shall continue to implement the recommendations of the 2001 South Kingstown Greenways Master Plan through the CIP.	Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Department of Public Services, Planning Department	Long-Term
The Town shall inventory existing bicycle racks for public facilities and the William C. O'Neill Bicycle Path and compile a strategy to augment this system using Town budget resources, sponsorships/donations, new developments and redevelopments, and grant funding mechanisms.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Friends of the William C. O'Neill Bike Path	Short-Term
The Town shall encourage businesses to install bike friendly features, especially in village areas and those businesses that abut the bike path.	Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term
The Town shall identify appropriate locations for and provide attractive bicycle parking facilities near municipal buildings and open spaces that serve the general public on a daily basis.	Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term
The Town shall amend regulations to require the installation of attractive bicycle facilities for residential developments of six units or greater or for any commercial development requiring development plan review.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term
Policy 1.5 – The Town shall continue to implement improvements on municipally owned roadways and bridges to improve safety and capacity.		

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall continue to assess its transportation infrastructure needs through its Transportation Improvement Program.	Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Department of Public Services, Police Department	Ongoing
The Town shall continue to implement the recommendations of the South Kingstown Transportation Improvement Program through the CIP.	Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Department of Public Services	Ongoing
The Town shall evaluate transportation needs and potential improvements relative to emergency response.	Town Council, Town Manager's Office, Department of Public Services, Police Department	Short-Term
Policy 2.1 – The Town recognizes that street design must account for all users in order to provide a safe and balanced transportation system.		
The Town shall explore regulation amendments to encourage new development, redevelopment, and roadway improvements that are consistent with the Complete Streets concept as supported by the South Kingstown Town Council Resolution. The Town will reference the Institute of Transportation Engineers report "Designing Walkable Urban Thoroughfares: A Context Sensitive Approach" for Complete Streets where appropriate.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Mid-Term
The Town shall coordinate with RIDOT to encourage the Complete Streets concept as the basis for street design on state transportation and infrastructure related projects as appropriate.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council, RIDOT	Short-Term
The Town shall work with RIDOT to evaluate improvements along Old Tower Hill Road between Route 1 and Dale Carlia Corner to support a safe, attractive, human-scaled environment to encourage pedestrian connectivity within the area.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council, RIDOT	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall implement traffic calming strategies to improve safety and reduce traffic speed where warranted.	Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term
Policy 2.2 – The Town of South Kingstown recognizes the importance of proper street lighting for public safety.		
The Traffic and Transportation Review Committee will review proposals to upgrade areas with inadequate and/or nonexistent street lighting based upon the following criteria, and street lighting in other areas will be discouraged: a) Locations with a relatively high accident rate; b) Locations with a relatively high crime rate; c) Locations with a concentration of senior citizens or handicapped residents such as elderly housing projects or nursing homes; and, d) Areas of special or unusual character (e.g. village centers, community centers, churches or schools).	Department of Public Services, Traffic and Transportation Review Comm.	Ongoing
The Town shall require that new or upgraded street lighting for parking lots and other private development to be shielded downward to minimize glare in the night sky.	Department of Public Services, Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board	Ongoing
Policy 3.1 - The Town will periodically review its Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations to ensure that the circulation goals and policies are reflected.		
The Town shall amend its Zoning Ordinance to provide for shared parking areas in appropriate districts and to permit parking on adjacent or nearby land.	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall establish flexible standards for roadway/driveway construction, including widths and type of material, in an effort to minimize the extent of impervious surfaces, reduce construction costs and encourage energy conservation.	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term
The Town shall explore amending its Subdivision and Land Development Regulations to incorporate innovative standards for low impact development in roadway design and stormwater management practices.	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term
The Town shall develop mechanisms for measuring and accounting for the cumulative impacts of development regarding transportation improvements and addressing these impacts within the development review process. The Town shall formalize this metric within regulations that will specify new requirements for applicants and provide clear decision criteria for review authorities.	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term
The Town shall review the need to establish a maximum length of road with a cul-de-sac.	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term
The Town shall explore amending regulations to incorporate standards for increasing pedestrian access and connectivity between adjoining commercial properties and between commercial properties and surrounding residential neighborhoods in a coordinated manner.	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board	Mid-Term
Policy 3.2 - The Town will encourage an energy-efficient pattern of development which avoids urban sprawl and scattered land development. The Town endorses a Land Use Plan having a concentration of population and services in a central core area.		
The Town shall pursue development patterns in peripheral lands outside of the Wakefield - Peace Dale - Kingston core which discourage major population growth.	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board	Ongoing
Policy 3.3 - The Town supports minimizing the use of oil and salts on roads especially in environmentally sensitive areas except where essential for public safety.		
The Town shall work with RIDOT to reduce the amount of salt and oil added to the roads.	Planning Department	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
Policy 3.4 - The Town shall promote the highest aesthetic standards for roadway design and visual quality along major roads.		
The Town shall continue to pursue the designation of the entire length of Route 1 within the Town as a State recognized scenic highway. Following the potential designation as a scenic highway, the Town shall consider adoption of a management plan to address issue such as access, buffers, and aesthetics.	Town Council, Planning Department	Short-Term
The Town shall promote the phasing out of existing billboards along all roadways in the Town, with maximum application of the legal powers it may have to do so.	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term
The Town shall continue to prohibit the construction of new billboards throughout the Town.	Town Council, Planning Department	Ongoing
The Town shall continue its street tree planting program where appropriate and shall retain existing significant trees when constructing new roadways and sidewalks. Street trees are recognized as an important element in supporting a healthy, walkable environment.	Planning Department, Con. Comm.	Ongoing
The Town shall consider the option of providing underground utilities where feasible on all new or reconstructed State or local streets or highways.	Planning Department, Public Utilities Department	Long-Term
Policy 4.1 - The Town will continue to improve its policy of coordination with RIDOT on state transportation projects, by maintaining contact with RIDOT during all phases of planning, design and construction. The Town will strongly encourage RIDOT to utilize flexible road design standards that provide an appropriate fit to the community.		
The Town shall insist on its rights of equal partnership with the State authorities.	Town Council, Planning Department, Planning Board, Department of Public Services	Ongoing
The Town shall continue to collaborate with the RIDOT to enhance roadway conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists in future transportation and infrastructure related projects.	Town Manager's Office, Planning Department, Planning	Ongoing

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
	Board, RIDOT	
Policy 4.2 – The Town shall continue to solicit state assistance for transportation improvements through Statewide Planning Program's Transportation Improvement Program.		
The Town shall work with state agencies including RIDOT and RIDEM for funding enhancement projects, bicycle path and greenway projects, roadway upgrade projects, and other transportation improvements in Town.	Town Council, Department of Public Services, Planning Department	Ongoing
The Town shall research potential state/federal resources to fund the realignment of Matunuck Beach Road to protect the South Shore Water System 12-inch main and maintain the primary evacuation route for residents.	Town Council, Department of Public Services, Planning Department	Short-Term
Policy 4.3 – The Town shall require that URI implement traffic reduction programs and traffic management practices to mitigate traffic congestions on local roads.		
The Town will work with the various departments of URI to assure that traffic management for all events, including those at the Ryan Center, are adequately planned and implemented to minimize traffic disruption to the community.	Town Manager's Office, Department of Public Services	Short-Term
The Town shall support the continuation and expansion of URI's successful partnerships with RIPTA to reduce student/staff traffic impacts on local roads and within campus.	Town Manager's Office, Department of Public Services, URI, RIPTA	Short-Term
The Town shall support URI's plans to promote Plains Road and Route 138 east from Route 2 as a means to access the campus and mitigate traffic congestion in Kingston Village.	Town Manager's Office, Department of Public Services	Short-Term
The Town shall continue to work with the URI to enhance roadway conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists in future transportation and infrastructure related projects.	Town Manager's Office, Planning Department, Department of Public Services, URI	Ongoing

University of Rhode Island Action Plan

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
Policy 1.1 - The Town will maintain effective and ongoing communications with the University by continuing to participate in the URI Master Plan Review Team process.		
Policy 1.2 - The Town will be pro-active with the University on transportation planning, traffic management, traffic calming and infrastructure related issues, particularly in relation to the Rhode Island Department of Administration, Division of Planning's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).		
Policy 1.3 – The University intends to revise its Campus Master Plan to include land holdings northerly of the traditional Campus boundary at Flagg Road prior to any development in this area. This process should include substantive efforts to involve the Town as the "host community".		
Policy 1.4 – The University and Town should work toward the development of a "Host Community/University" cooperative agreement to provide a process and structure to address areas where common interests intersect and matters of concern arise.		
Policy 1.5 – The Town recognizes that declining State support of URI provides an impetus to seek "non-traditional" means to provide resources to support facilities and programs on the Campus. In this regard the Town strongly encourages URI to coordinate with and solicit community input regarding the change in use or new use of any URI-owned parcels beyond the immediate Kingston Campus. Where planned uses are outside the traditional University educational mission or proprietary in nature, the Town and University should consider whether local zoning requirements, payment of real estate taxes and Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements need to be instituted.		
Policy 1.6 – The Town will monitor the impacts of educational costs associated with school children in local schools resulting from on-campus graduate student and/or faculty/staff housing. Based on this review the Town will establish a framework for determining when a PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) program to compensate the Town of South Kingstown for additional educational costs is appropriate.		
The Town will continue to actively participate in the URI Master Plan Review Team process.	Town Council, Town Manager, Planning Department	Ongoing
The Town shall consider an agreement with URI to support a local food system in South Kingstown through coordinating available resources and expertise.	Planning Department, Planning Board,	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
	Town Council, URI	
The Town will work with the University and RIDOT to define and develop appropriately scaled infrastructure upgrades and the use of traffic calming techniques and management strategies in the Kingston and West Kingston vicinities to address existing and proposed institutional development and general community growth.	Town Council, Town Manager, Planning Department, Planning Board, Department of Public Services, Traffic and Transportation Review Committee, RIDOT, URI	Mid-Term
The Town will track municipal costs attributable to the University, particularly with regard to school children in local schools from on-campus graduate student and/or faculty housing. This database will form the basis of discussions with URI regarding a potential PILOT program to address these costs.	URI, Board of Governors for Higher Education, Town Manager, School Department Town Council	Short-Term
The Town will continue its legacy of accessing University expertise and resources to cooperatively address local issues relating to land use, urban design, environmental systems analysis, infrastructure and special projects.	URI, Board of Governors for Higher Education, Town Manager, Town Council, Planning Department	Ongoing
Policy 2.1 – The Town supports and strongly encourages University efforts and programs to utilize and promote innovative and alternative forms of transportation for commuters and staff, particularly in relation to underutilized RIPTA programs and linkage to the use of the Kingston Station multi-modal transportation capabilities. Such linkages may also include consideration of off-campus state properties (i.e. Scarborough Beach Parking lot) to serve as satellite parking facilities for RIPTA service to and from the Campus.		
Policy 2.2 – The Town supports and encourages the University's efforts to promote active, healthy modes of transportation in future improvement projects to increase pedestrian safety, support the health of students and faculty, and reduce automobile dependency.		

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
Policy 2.3 – The Town supports the use of the South County Bike Path as an alternative means of commuter access for "down the line" commuting to the University and will continue to work in concert with URI and RIDOT to improve linkages from the existing path to the institution.		
Policy 2.4 - The Town strongly supports University programs and policies to decrease commuter traffic to and within the Campus, particularly with regard to promoting the use of high occupancy vehicles, public transit (RIPTA) and shuttle buses to access the multi-modal facility at the Kingston Railroad Station. Student, staff and faculty utilization of the commuter rail facility at Wickford Junction should be encouraged.		
Policy 2.5 - The Town supports and encourages the University to implement policies and programs to lessen resident student use of automobiles on campus. This effort may include, but not be limited to: ***increased fees for parking,*** ***parking lot restrictions and prohibitions of resident underclassman parking/auto use (particularly for the freshman class),*** ***Expand shuttle service both on and off the campus and other means to promote URI, Planning Department, Planning Board efficient access to and within the campus environs. Promote policies that discourage vehicle movements of resident student cars on the Campus during the academic day.*** ***Establish/enhance programs that promote a healthy, walkable, bikeable campus environment.*** ***Consider the establishment of a complete streets policy for all campus infrastructure improvement projects.***		
Policy 2.6 – To adequately support and mitigate the impact of new or expanded Campus facilities, the University should develop a parallel, coordinated capital improvement planning process to address any upgrade and improvements requirements to South Kingstown and State roadway connections to the University.		
Policy 2.7 - In cooperation with RIDOT and the University, the Town will support and participate in research efforts and studies as appropriate to define infrastructure and service provision capacities/limitations as well as to identify capital improvement needs for addressing such deficiencies along with requirements for upgrades and improvements in response to institutional and general community growth.		
Policy 2.8 - The Town strongly supports the University's efforts to promote the health of its students and faculty through providing active modes of transportation to and within campus, access to recreational resources, and access to healthy food on campus.		

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
Policy 2.9 – The University and RIDOT, in cooperation with the Town of South Kingstown, should undertake a planning process to promote balanced multi-modal access to and within the Campus by faculty, staff, students, commuters and visitors. This effort would include, but not be limited to, the following: ***a) Development of a program to promote/enhance Plains Road as an entry point to the school*** ***b) Consider the feasibility of establishing a link to Route 2 from the northwest corner of the Campus (via Wolf Rock Road),*** ***c) Review and identify improvements needs for the pedestrian and bicycle system connecting to and within the campus*** ***d) Promote/improve mass transit linkages to surrounding communities and within the Campus environment itself*** ***Evaluate trends and modify/update as warranted the "Kingston/University of Rhode Island Comprehensive Transportation Study", prepared by BETA Engineering for RIDOT, South Kingstown, and URI in November 2000***		
The Town will strongly support University programs to promote and utilize alternative forms of transportation for commuters and staff, including efforts to preserve and extend existing routes and expand RIPTA services to better service student enclaves "down the line".	Town Manager, Planning Department, Traffic and Transportation Review Committee, RIPTA, RIDEM, URI	Short-Term
The Town shall continue to implement the recommendations of "South Kingstown: Designing a Healthier Community" as they relate to the University and surrounding neighborhoods.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Council	Short-Term
The Town will research, consider and institute, as appropriate, traffic calming techniques on Town roads in proximity to the University to manage traffic flow and promote safety. The Town will urge the State of RI and the University to continue to utilize such techniques on State roads and the campus road system (e.g., the 138 Improvement Project) and University actions with regard to its internal road systems (e.g., eliminating parking on Flagg Road north side and from Heathman Road to Upper College on the south side, increased cross walk markings and elevated cross walks, and added three and four-way stops at key intersections).	URI, Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
Through active participation in the State TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) and in the development of the local CIP (Capital Improvement Program), the Town will assess transportation system adequacy, advocate and plan for infrastructure improvements that will appropriately handle existing traffic and expected future volume conditions on State and Town roads in proximity to the University.	URI, Town Council, Town Manager, Planning Department, Planning Board	Ongoing
The Town will work with RIDOT and URI to review and define area infrastructure capacities and limitations in relation to University expansion, capital facilities planning and background community growth. As part of this cooperative effort options to address deficiencies and capacity limits will be researched and implemented, as appropriate.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Manager, Department of Public Services, Town Council, URI, RIDOT	Ongoing
The Town will work with URI to develop and maintain recreation resources that are well connected to campus and surrounding neighborhoods through bike paths, foot paths, parks, and hiking trails, and other recreational services and facilities.	Planning Department, Planning Board	Mid-Term
In cooperation with URI, the Town will review the potential impacts of institutional growth at the University on public safety response capacities (including South Kingstown EMS, Kingston Fire District, Kingston Water District and Police).	URI, Planning Department, Planning Board, Town Manager's Office, Department of Public Services, Police Department, South Kingstown EMS, Kingston Fire District, Kingston Water District	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town encourages the University to continue efforts and cooperation with Town public safety personnel to manage special event traffic impacts on the historic villages of Kingston, West Kingston and associated neighborhood settings.	URI, Police Department, South Kingstown EMS, Kingston Fire District	Ongoing
The Town encourages the University to utilize best management practices for the storage, handling and transport of hazardous materials and chemicals on the Kingston campus. In this regard the University is further encouraged to store, manage and transport these materials in a manner that is sensitive to the surrounding college and residential communities as well as the natural features and systems in proximity to the campus. This effort should include appropriate notice and incident planning/management in cooperation with public safety personnel (police, EMS and Kingston Fire District).	URI, Police Department, South Kingstown EMS, Kingston Fire District	Ongoing
Policy 3.1 - The Town will generally support the University's plans for expansion of on-campus student housing, provided such expansion is supported adequately through the provision of appropriate infrastructure and facilities.		
Policy 3.2 - The Town supports efforts by the University to house a greater percentage of the student body on campus to lessen demand on rental housing within the Town and region and to mitigate commuter traffic to the campus.		
Policy 3.3 – Any University initiated or sponsored projects to provide faculty, staff or alumni/retiree housing should include affordable components consistent with the goals of the "Rhode Island Low and Moderate Income Housing Act RIGL 45-53" and South Kingstown Comprehensive Community Plan's Affordable Housing Production Plan. This type of capital planning will benefit the University and Town by increasing the affordable housing resources across the entire community.		
The Town will request that the University annually provide current academic year enrollment statistics and projections for same covering a five year timeframe. The Town will also request that the University provide updates on its capital improvement program, particularly as it relates to construction of new student housing on the campus.	URI, Planning Department, Town Manager's Office	Ongoing

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The South Kingstown Affordable Housing Collaborative will provide resource information and advocacy for University initiated or sponsored projects that provide on-campus faculty, staff or alumni/staff housing to ensure such projects include an affordable housing component consistent with RIGL 45-53.	URI, Planning Department, South Kingstown Affordable Housing Collaborative	Ongoing
Policy 4.1 – To protect wetlands and surface and groundwater resources associated with the Chipuxet Aquifer, the Town supports, encourages and expects that the University will utilize best management practices for drainage handling and soil and sedimentation control all capital improvement projects, campus renovations and infrastructure management.		
Policy 4.2 - Consistent with the heritage of the University as a "Land Grant College" and "Agricultural Experiment Station", the Town strongly encourages URI to identify, consider, preserve and protect sensitive natural areas and features in all capital improvement projects and infrastructure upgrades. Preservation of the open space character and agricultural legacy of the Kingston Campus must be a guiding principle in the master plan revisions considered for all campus facility expansion northerly of Flagg Road.		
Policy 4.3 – The University Master Planning program should also address future uses and/or conservation based management of "outlying" agricultural and open space properties such as Peckham Farm, East Farm, the Hazard property and any other tracts outside the main campus environs. These outlying parcels are located in sensitive environmental settings that help to support the University legacy as a land grant college and are important in defining the rural and open space characteristic of the Town and URI.		
Policy 4.4 - The Town supports the University's recent focus at promoting a sustainable campus environment, as evidenced by the school's LEED certification program for new facilities and the recently developed, draft document entitled: "URI Climate Action Plan" July 2010. The Town encourages the University to consider and adopt the Climate Action Plan as a component of its campus master planning efforts.		
Policy 4.5 – The Town shall work collaboratively with the University to inventory all existing healthy food resources on campus and promote these resources to students, faculty, and where appropriate, the community at large.		
Policy 4.6 – The Town highly encourages the University to adopt purchasing practices already employed by many other Rhode Island colleges to increase the procurement of local food products from farmers and growers in Town.		

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
To assist the University's Campus Master Plan development process, Town staff, boards and commissions will share resource information and expertise with the University concerning open space in proximity to the campus, as well as wetlands data and other information pertinent to on shared environmental resources.	Planning Department, Planning Board, Conservation Commission	Ongoing
The Town will take an active role in the University's land use and conservation planning efforts for all URI properties within South Kingstown's borders.	URI, Planning Department, Planning Board	Ongoing
The Town will support University programs to promote "green development", sustainability, energy conservation and preservation of the historic character of the campus.	URI, Planning Department, Planning Board	Ongoing
The Town will encourage the University to constrain its capital improvement program and facilities expansion to the known capacity of the Chipuxet aquifer.	URI, Board of Governor's for Higher Education, Planning Department, Town Manager's Office	Ongoing
The Town shall work collaboratively with the University to inventory all existing healthy food resources on campus such as food outlets, food gardens, sites available for small-scale agriculture, accessible kitchen space, and compost facilities.	URI, Planning Department	Short-Term
The Town shall work with the University to increase the availability of healthy food resources on campus and increase the capacity for the sustainable composting program and other food waste practices.	URI, Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term
The Town Council shall consider a resolution stating that the Town and the University will work collaboratively together to support a local food system that includes sustainable local agriculture and aquaculture activities.	URI, Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term

Action	Responsible Party	Implementation Horizon
The Town shall work collaboratively with the University and state legislators to identify and address any barriers to utilizing the University's purchasing power to increase the procurement of local food products from farmers and growers in Town.	URI, Board of Governor's for Higher Education, Planning Department, Planning Board	Short-Term

Appendix A

- 2010 Comprehensive Plan Survey
- 2010 Comprehensive Plan Survey Results

SOUTH KINGSTOWN
2010 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE
COMMUNITY SURVEY

In accordance with State Law the Town is in the process of updating the Comprehensive Community Plan. As a component of the update process, the Planning Board is administering this survey to solicit community input. Although it will take only a few minutes to complete the survey, your answers will help shape the Comprehensive Plan and the future of our Town for many years to come. Many of the questions included within this survey are based on questions from the 2003 edition of the Community Survey to compare trends over time.

As we are initiating the update process, we need to know your thoughts right away. Please complete the survey immediately and place it in one of the collection boxes located at the South Kingstown Main Library, South Kingstown Senior Center, or the South Kingstown Neighborhood Guild. Complete only one survey per person. You can also find an on-line version of the survey at www.horsleywitten.com/skingstown. Your responses will be kept confidential. The results of this survey will be presented at an upcoming public Comprehensive Community Plan meeting. Thank you for your participation.

1) Overall, how do you feel about the present quality of life in South Kingstown?
1___Excellent 2___Good 3 ___Fair 4 ___Poor 5___Don't know

Listed below is a set of statements about South Kingstown. Next to each statement are four numbers representing different levels of agreement or disagreement. (For example, the number 2 stands for "Slightly Agree".) Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the statements by circling the appropriate number.

	Strongly Agree	Slightly Agree	Slightly Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2) The Town should try to attract and maintain tenants within its existing industrial zoned properties, particularly its mill complexes.	1	2	3	4
3) The Town should make it a priority to move toward the State mandate of 10% affordable housing stock (subsidized).	1	2	3	4
4) There is an adequate amount of small-scale, affordable housing in Town (not subsidized).	1	2	3	4
5) The Town should continue its efforts to manage the rate of residential growth in the community.	1	2	3	4
6) The Town has done a good job of preserving coastal/ shoreline resources.	1	2	3	4

	Strongly Agree	Slightly Agree	Slightly Disagree	Strongly Disagree
7) Current conditions of transportation infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, bike paths, etc.) are adequate to handle the Town's current and future needs.	1	2	3	4
8) The Town needs to continue to acquire additional lands for conservation and open space preservation.	1	2	3	4
9) The Town needs to continue to acquire additional lands for recreational facilities.	1	2	3	4
10) The Town needs to acquire small parcels to provide more green space in its village centers.	1	2	3	4
11) The Town should promote agricultural activities such as active farming, agricultural tourism, and farmers markets.	1	2	3	4
12) The Town should encourage alternative forms or transportation other than the automobile.	1	2	3	4
13) The Town has done a good job of protecting the quality of drinking water.	1	2	3	4
14) The Town should encourage the tourism industry to add to the economy and create jobs.	1	2	3	4
15) The Town should encourage home occupations and telecommuting.	1	2	3	4
16) It is possible for the Town to increase shopping opportunities while maintaining a "small town" atmosphere.	1	2	3	4
17) The Town should expand its industrial and commercial zoned districts to promote more economic development opportunities while being considerate of nearby residential districts.	1	2	3	4
18) The Town should commit to a long-term investment in economic development through its municipal programs.	1	2	3	4

19) Please use the space below to discuss what your greatest concerns are for the future of South Kingstown.

20) The University of Rhode Island is considering the development of a research and technology park adjacent to campus. A research and technology park would consist of office buildings, laboratories, small manufacturing facilities, and associated parking areas. Such a facility has the potential to reduce the Town's dependence on residential property tax and provide employment opportunities but it may also create impacts on the local community regarding traffic, municipal services, etc. Please check the line that best describes your feelings about the development of a research and technology park in South Kingstown.

1 ___Strongly favorable 2 ___Moderately favorable 3 ___Moderately dislike
4___Strongly dislike 5 ___Don't know

21) The "Village at South County Commons" is a mixed-use development (uses include retail, commercial, office, hotel, theater, etc.) located off Route 1 in the Town's Route 1 Special Management District. The project was approved in 2000, it has been under development since and is now nearly built out. What is your opinion of the "Village at South County Commons"?

1 ___Strongly favorable 2 ___Moderately favorable 3 ___Moderately dislike
4 ___Strongly dislike 5 ___Don't know

22) The Town's current development regulations (zoning, subdivision regulations, etc.) are:

1 ___Too restrictive 2 ___Too lenient 3 ___Just about right
4 ___Don't know

23) The population of the Town has grown 9.0% (2,516 persons) between 2000 and 2009 (estimated). How would you characterize this change in population?

1 ___Too fast 2 ___Just right 3 ___Too slow
4 ___Don't know

24) Promotion of economic development (new stores, office buildings, restaurants and manufacturers) may diversify the Town's tax base and lessen the burden on residential properties to fund municipal services. Compared to the present commercial growth rate, would you like the commercial growth rate to:

1 ___Increase greatly 2 ___Increase slightly 3 ___Stay about the same
4 ___Decrease slightly 5 ___Decrease greatly

25) An expansion or improvement of Town services may require an increase in local taxes. With that in mind, do you believe there is a need to expand any Town services?

1___Yes 2___No 3___Not sure

26) If you answered yes to the previous question, please check the line next to the Town service(s) you would be willing to expand or improve at the possible expense of a tax increase. (You may check more than one line.)

1 ___Schools 2 ___Police 3 ___ Roads and Highways
4 ___Recreational Facilities 5 ___Fire (presently all volunteer) 6 ___Recreational Services
7 ___Emergency Medical Services 8____Other (Please specify:_____)

27) What is your opinion concerning enrollment growth and the new construction and expansion activities taking place at the University of Rhode Island?

1 ___Has had a positive effect 2 ___Has had a negative effect 3 ___Has not affected you

28) Looking ahead ten years to the year 2020, do you think that South Kingstown will be a better place to live than it is today, a worse place to live or about the same?

1 ___A better place 2 ___A worse place 3 ___About the same
4___Don't know

Please use the space below to elaborate on your response to question 28:

The following information about you and your family will help us to understand and address the concerns of citizens throughout our town. Please remember that your responses are confidential.

29) In which of South Kingstown's neighborhoods or villages do you currently reside?

1 ___East Matunuck	2 ___Green Hill	3 ___Indian Lake
4 ___Kingston	5 ___Matunuck	6 ___Middlebridge
7 ___Peace Dale	8 ___Perryville	9 ___Snug Harbor
10 ___Tuckertown	11 ___Usquepaugh	12 ___Wakefield
13 ___West Kingston	14 ___In South Kingstown but not in any village listed	15___Not in South Kingstown

30) How long have you lived in South Kingstown?

1 ___Less than 6 years	2 ___6 to 10 years	3 ___11 to 15 years
4 ___16 to 20 years	5 ___21 to 25 years	6 ___26 or more years

31) Do you live here: 1 ___year-round 2 ___summer 3 ___school year 4 ___N A

32) Do you have children attending South Kingstown Public Schools? 1 ___Yes 2 ___No 3 ___N A

33) Please check your age group:

1___18 to 22	2 ___23 to 29	3___ 30 to 39	4 ___40 to 49
5 ___50 to 59	6 ___60 to 69	7 ___70 and over	

34) Do you own or rent your present residence? 1 ___own 2 ___rent 3 ___NA

35) Please indicate your present employment status:

1 ___Employed	2 ___Unemployed	3___Homemaker
4 ___Retired	5 ___Student	6___N A

36) If you are employed, is your primary place of employment in South Kingstown or outside of South Kingstown?

1___In South Kingstown 2___Outside of South Kingstown
3___In South Kingstown with home-based occupation with income registered outside of South Kingstown.

37) Please indicate the category into which your household's annual income falls (to the nearest thousand dollars, before taxes) by checking the appropriate line below:

1 ___Under $10,000	2 ___$ 10,000 to $ 30,000
3 ___$ 31,000 to $ 50,000	4 ___$ 51,000 to $ 70,000
5 ___ $ 71,000 to $ 90,000	6 ___$ 91,000 to $110,000
7 ___Over $ 110,000	

Thank you for participating in the Comprehensive Plan Five Year Update Survey. Please return your completed survey form no later than March 8, 2010 to the collection box locations indicated on the first page of this survey.

TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN
PLANNING BOARD AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT

RESULTS OF SURVEY OF COMMUNITY ATTITUDES—COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

The following report provides a summary of results from the South Kingstown Survey of Community Attitudes regarding the "community questions" (# 1-28). A separate report available on the project website (www.horsleywitten.com/skingstown) provides a summary of results regarding the "demographic questions" (# 29-37). A summary of responses to the questions with written components (# 19, 26, and 28) will be made available by May 1st at the South Kingstown Planning Department:

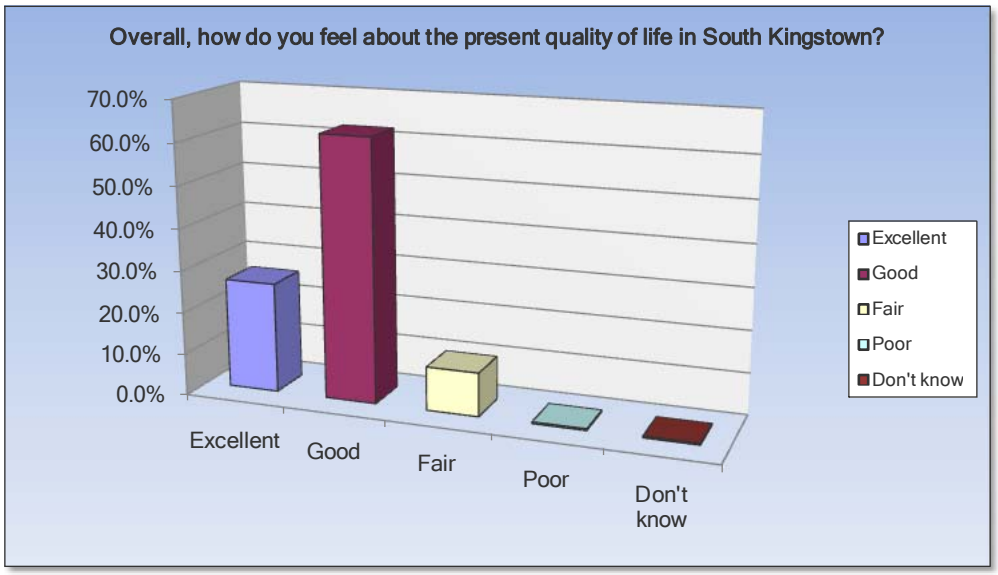
South Kingstown Planning Department
180 High Street
Wakefield, RI 02879
Phone: 401-789-9331 ext. 1244

The Survey of Community Attitudes was administered as part of the South Kingstown Comprehensive Plan Update—2010. The survey was conducted from February 10th – March 12th, 2010 and the Town received a total of 552 survey responses. The survey results will be compared to previous Town surveys and assessed for emerging trends and new ideas.

South Kingstown Community Survey

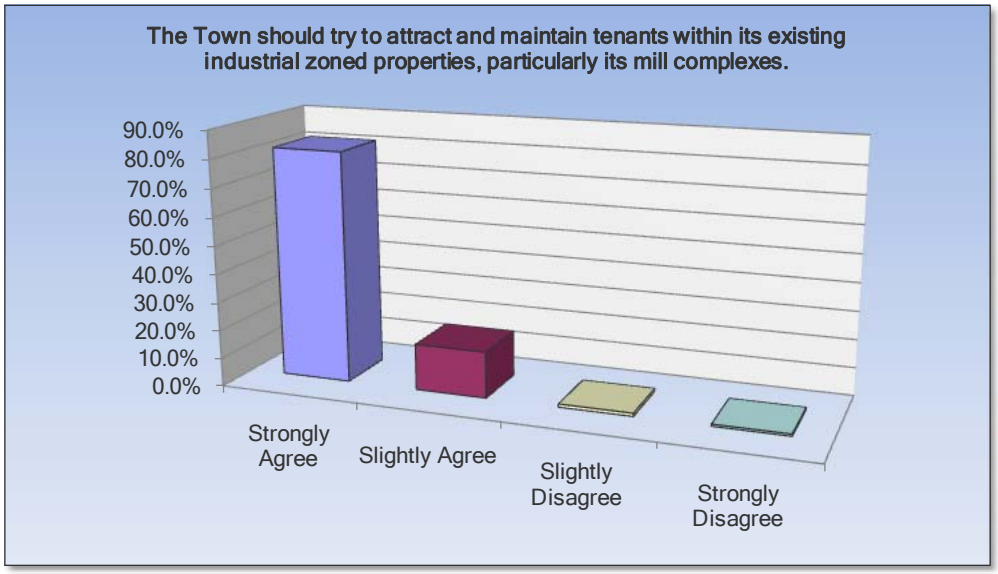
1.) Overall, how do you feel about the present quality of life in South Kingstown?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	26.3%	142
Good	62.5%	337
Fair	10.4%	56
Poor	0.4%	2
Don't know	0.4%	2
answered question		539
skipped question		14

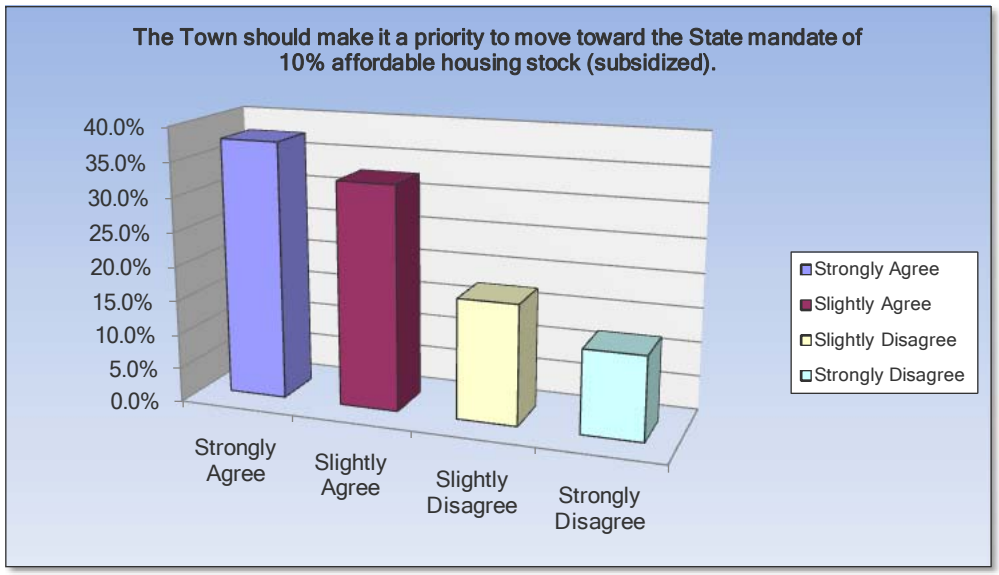


2.) The Town should try to attract and maintain tenants within its existing industrial zoned properties, particularly its mill complexes.

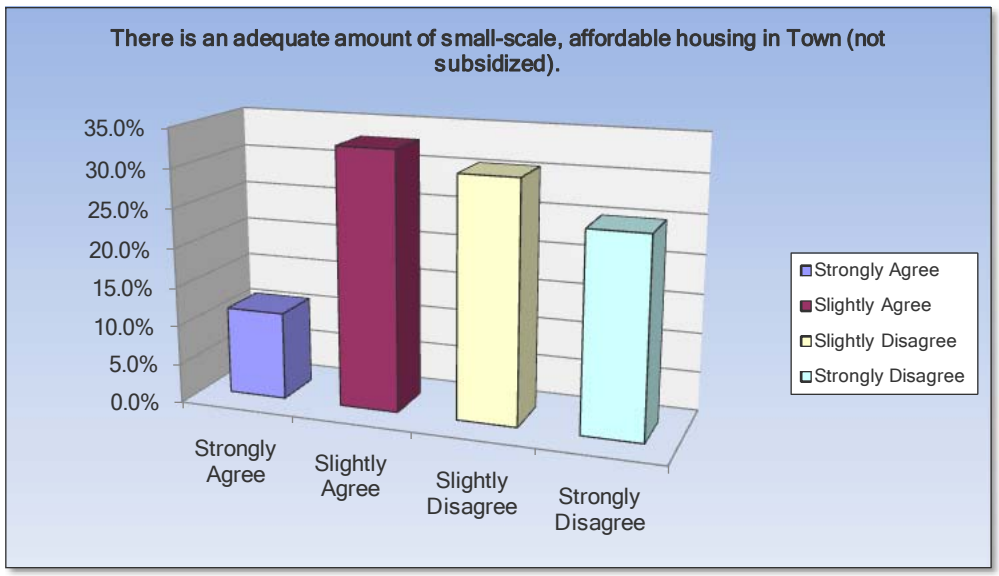
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	81.8%	449
Slightly Agree	16.4%	90
Slightly Disagree	1.1%	6
Strongly Disagree	0.7%	4
answered question		549
skipped question		4



3.) The Town should make it a priority to move toward the State mandate of 10% affordable housing stock (subsidized).		
Answer Options	**Response Percent**	**Response Count**
Strongly Agree	37.6%	206
Slightly Agree	32.7%	179
Slightly Disagree	17.5%	96
Strongly Disagree	12.2%	67
	answered question	**548**
	skipped question	**5**

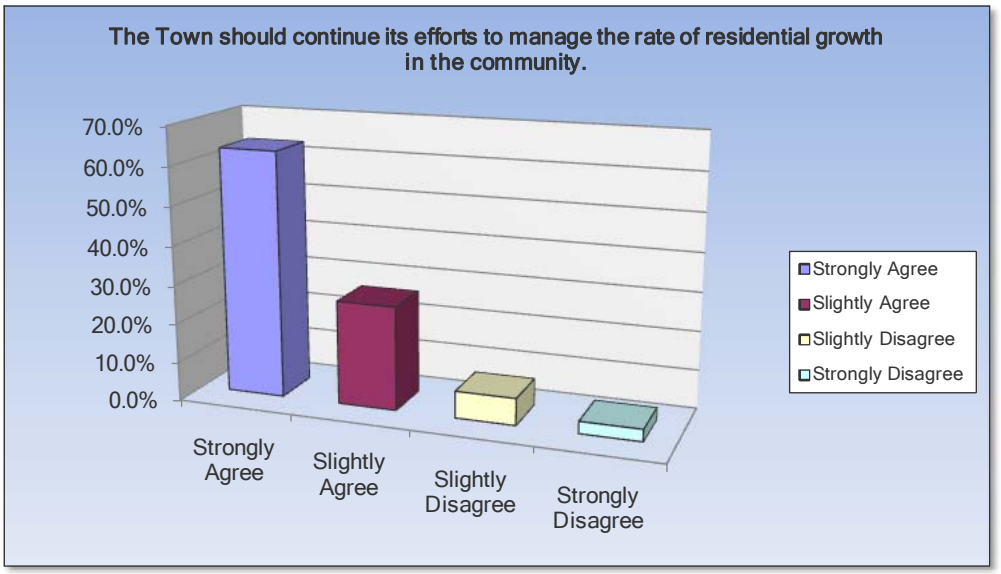


4.) There is an adequate amount of small-scale, affordable housing in Town (not subsidized).		
Answer Options	**Response Percent**	**Response Count**
Strongly Agree	11.2%	60
Slightly Agree	33.0%	177
Slightly Disagree	30.6%	164
Strongly Disagree	25.2%	135
	answered question	**536**
	skipped question	**17**



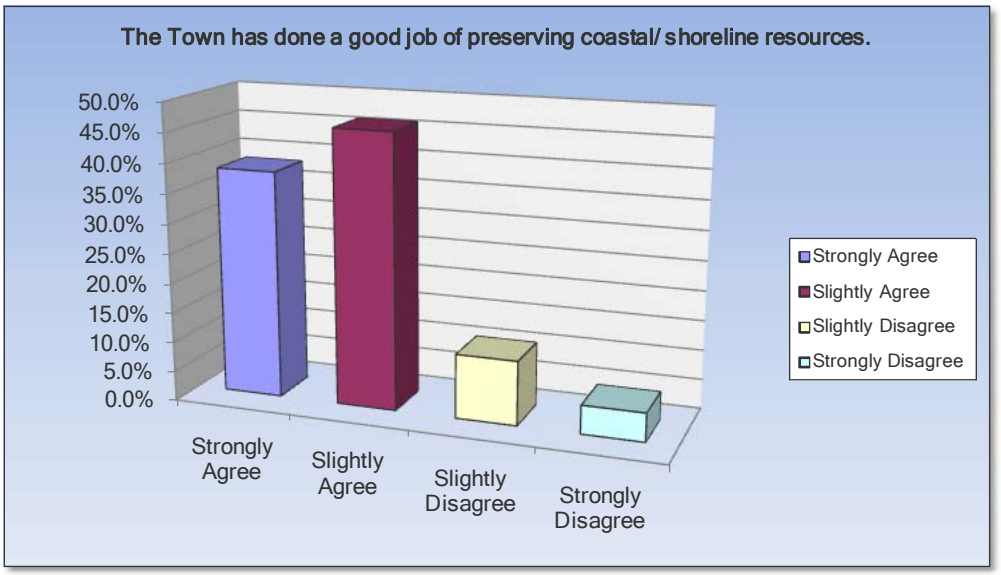
5.) The Town should continue its efforts to manage the rate of residential growth in the community.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	63.3%	346
Slightly Agree	26.7%	146
Slightly Disagree	6.9%	38
Strongly Disagree	3.1%	17
answered question		547
skipped question		6



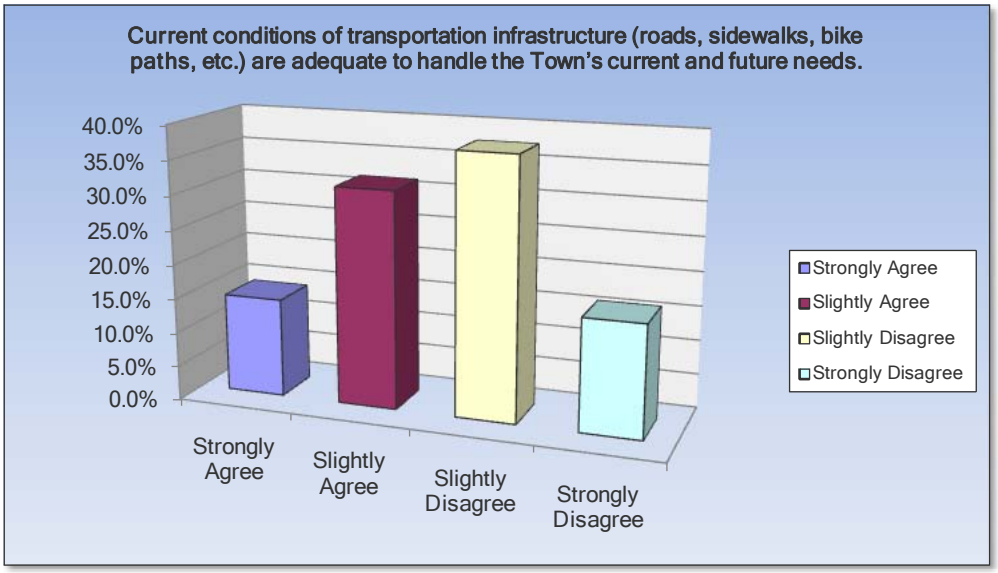
6.) The Town has done a good job of preserving coastal/ shoreline resources.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	38.3%	209
Slightly Agree	46.1%	251
Slightly Disagree	10.8%	59
Strongly Disagree	4.8%	26
answered question		545
skipped question		8



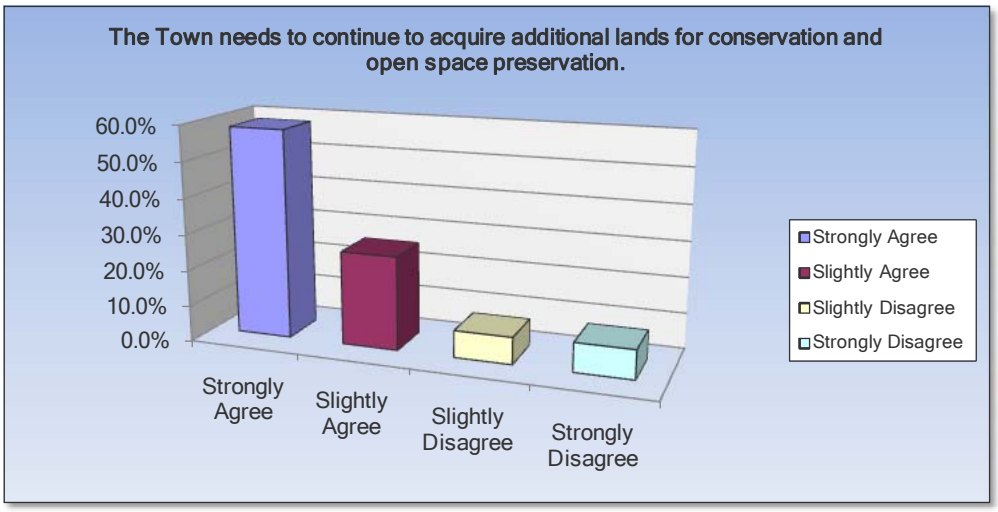
7.) Current conditions of transportation infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, bike paths, etc.) are adequate to handle the Town's current and future needs.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	14.4%	79
Slightly Agree	31.6%	173
Slightly Disagree	37.7%	206
Strongly Disagree	16.3%	89
answered question		547
skipped question		6



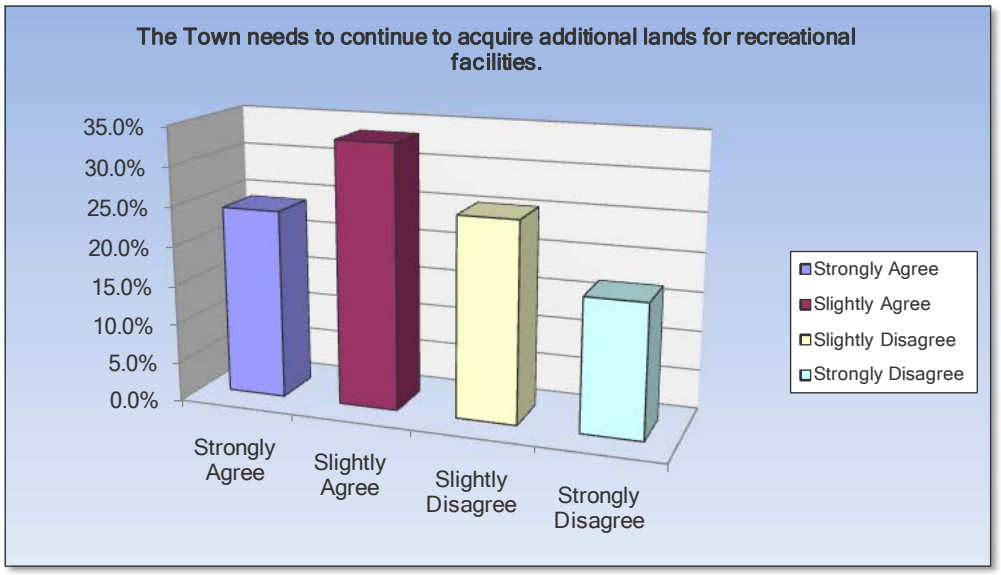
8.) The Town needs to continue to acquire additional lands for conservation and open space preservation.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	58.3%	317
Slightly Agree	26.1%	142
Slightly Disagree	7.5%	41
Strongly Disagree	8.1%	44
answered question		544
skipped question		9



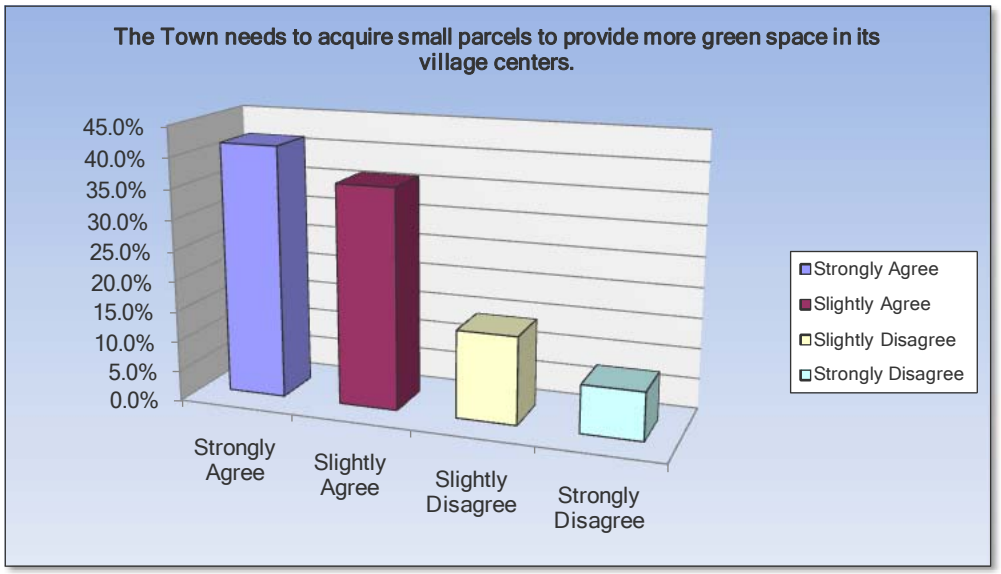
9.) The Town needs to continue to acquire additional lands for recreational facilities.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	24.1%	131
Slightly Agree	33.5%	182
Slightly Disagree	25.4%	138
Strongly Disagree	16.9%	92
answered question		543
skipped question		10



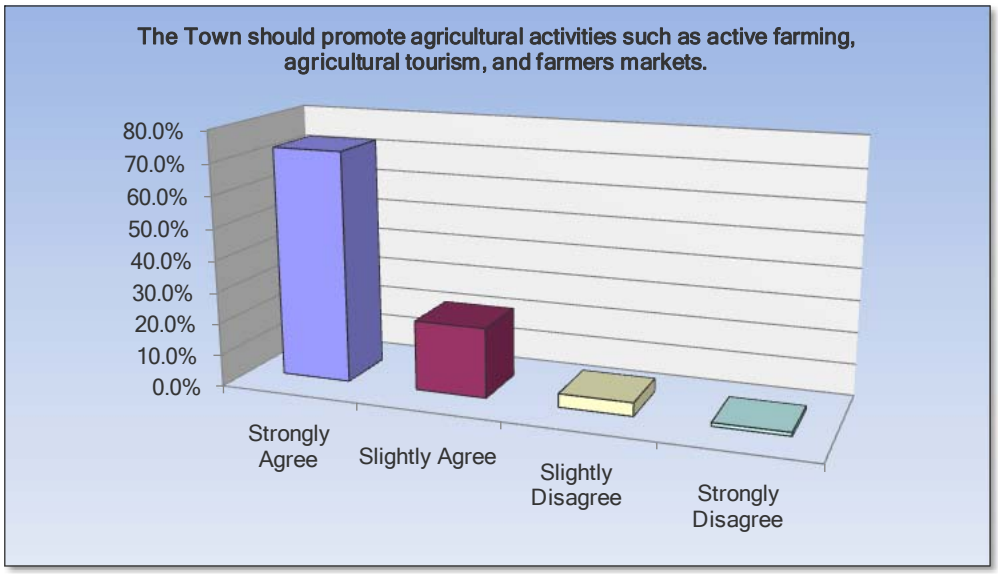
10.) The Town needs to acquire small parcels to provide more green space in its village centers.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	41.5%	227
Slightly Agree	36.2%	198
Slightly Disagree	14.4%	79
Strongly Disagree	7.9%	43
answered question		547
skipped question		6



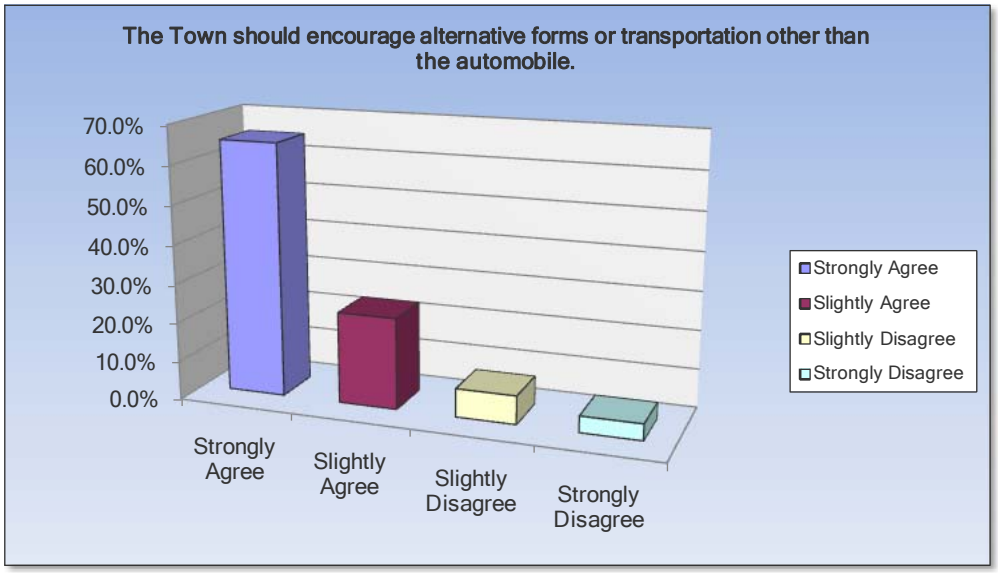
11.) The Town should promote agricultural activities such as active farming, agricultural tourism, and farmers markets.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	72.8%	401
Slightly Agree	22.0%	121
Slightly Disagree	4.2%	23
Strongly Disagree	1.1%	6
answered question		551
skipped question		2



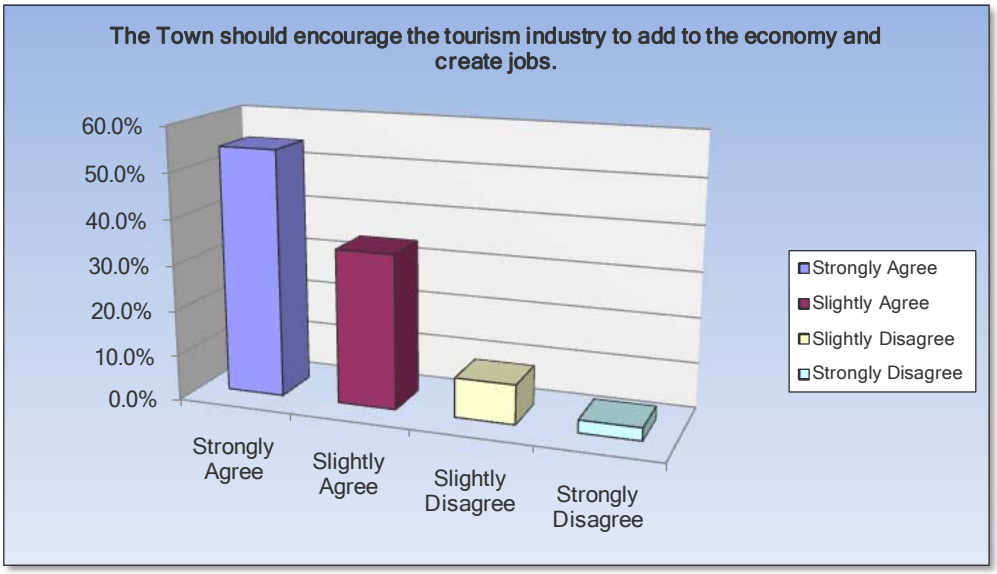
12.) The Town should encourage alternative forms or transportation other than the automobile.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	65.1%	358
Slightly Agree	23.5%	129
Slightly Disagree	7.3%	40
Strongly Disagree	4.2%	23
answered question		550
skipped question		3



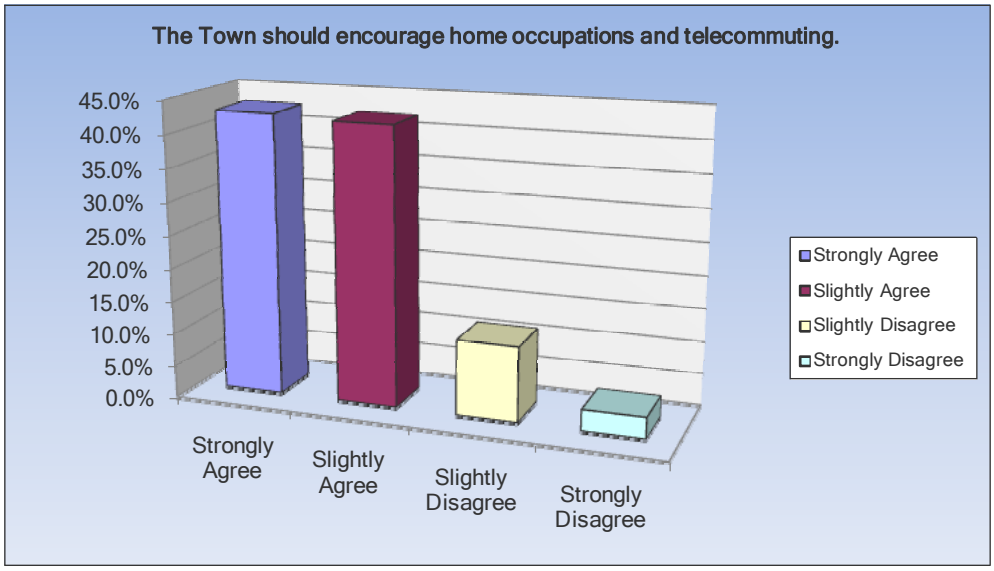
13.) The Town has done a good job of protecting the quality of drinking water.		
Answer Options	**Response Percent**	**Response Count**
Strongly Agree	44.9%	240
Slightly Agree	45.1%	241
Slightly Disagree	9.0%	48
Strongly Disagree	0.9%	5
	answered question	**534**
	skipped question	**19**

14.) The Town should encourage the tourism industry to add to the economy and create jobs.		
Answer Options	**Response Percent**	**Response Count**
Strongly Agree	54.5%	296
Slightly Agree	34.1%	185
Slightly Disagree	8.7%	47
Strongly Disagree	2.8%	15
	answered question	**543**
	skipped question	**10**



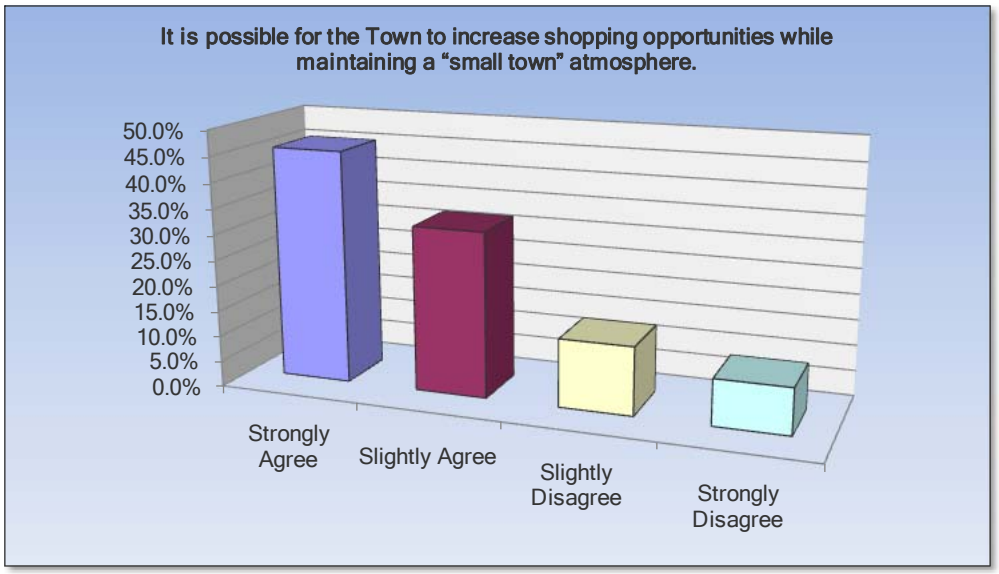
15.) The Town should encourage home occupations and telecommuting.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	42.9%	229
Slightly Agree	42.3%	226
Slightly Disagree	11.6%	62
Strongly Disagree	3.2%	17
answered question		534
skipped question		19

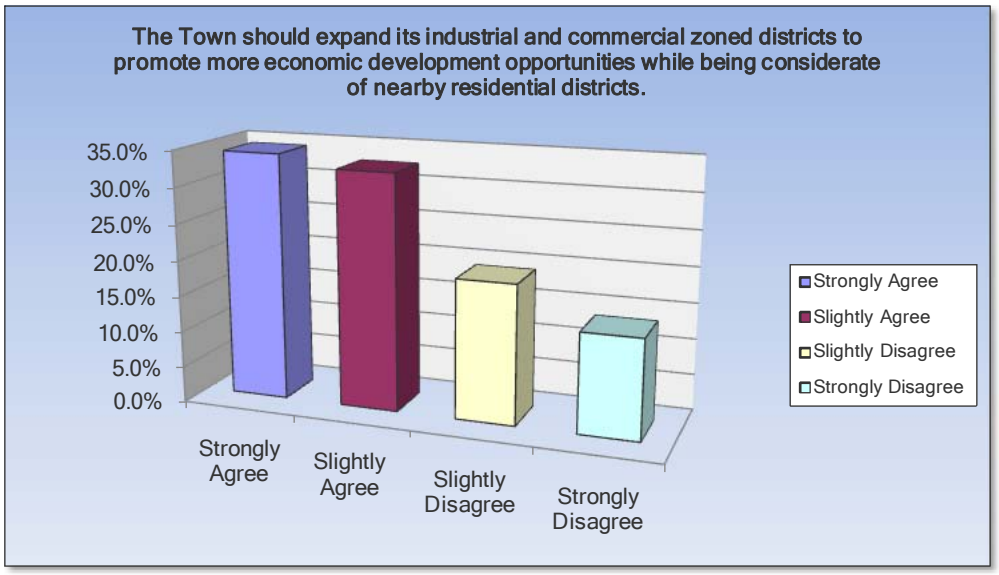


16.) It is possible for the Town to increase shopping opportunities while maintaining a "small town" atmosphere.

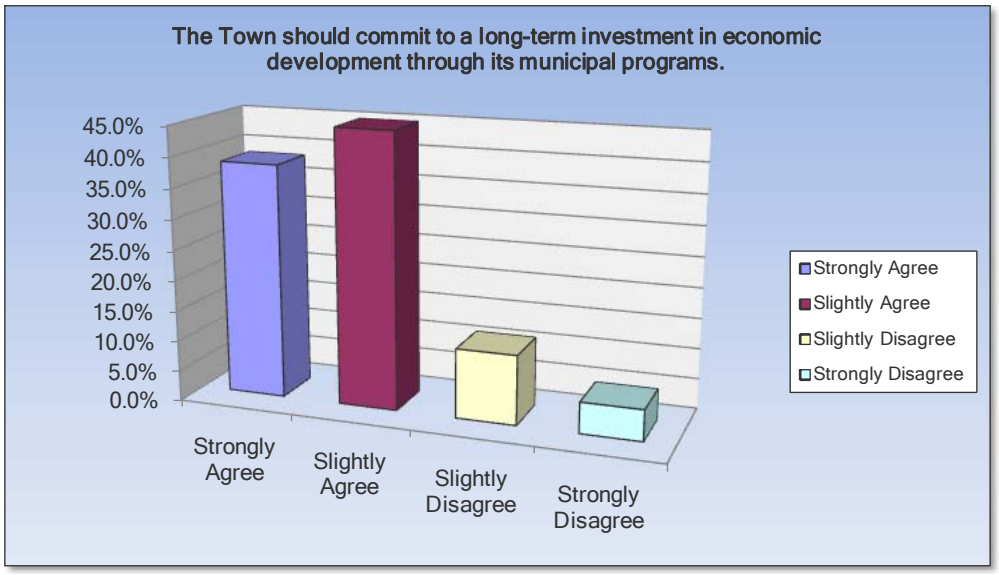
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	45.5%	247
Slightly Agree	32.2%	175
Slightly Disagree	13.3%	72
Strongly Disagree	9.0%	49
answered question		543
skipped question		10



17.) The Town should expand its industrial and commercial zoned districts to promote more economic development opportunities while being considerate of nearby residential districts.		
Answer Options	**Response Percent**	**Response Count**
Strongly Agree	34.3%	187
Slightly Agree	32.7%	178
Slightly Disagree	19.3%	105
Strongly Disagree	13.8%	75
	answered question	**545**
	skipped question	**8**



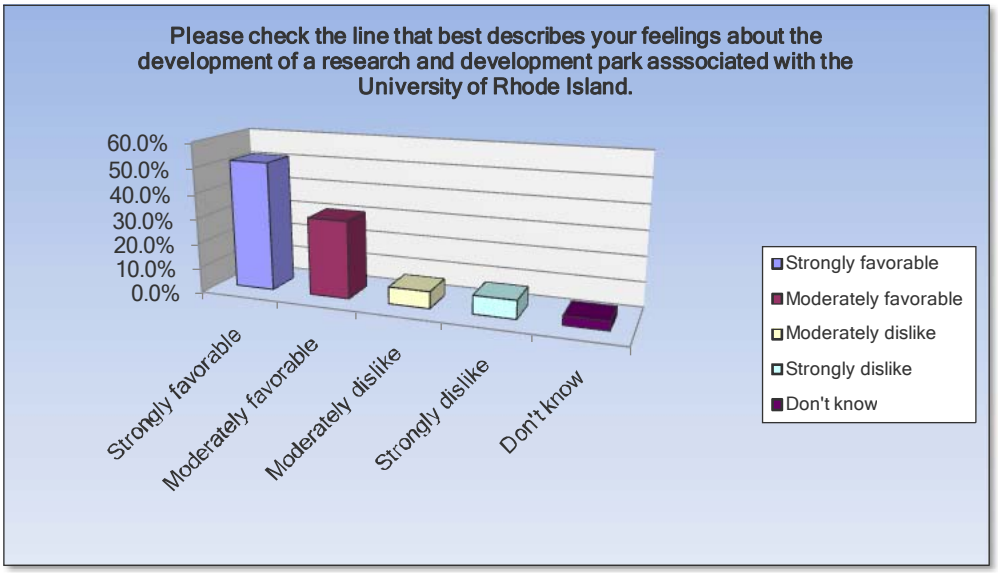
18.) The Town should commit to a long-term investment in economic development through its municipal programs.		
Answer Options	**Response Percent**	**Response Count**
Strongly Agree	38.5%	203
Slightly Agree	45.0%	237
Slightly Disagree	11.4%	60
Strongly Disagree	5.1%	27
	answered question	**527**
	skipped question	**26**



Question 19 is not included in this report as it was a comment based question and could not be summarized in a quantitative manner

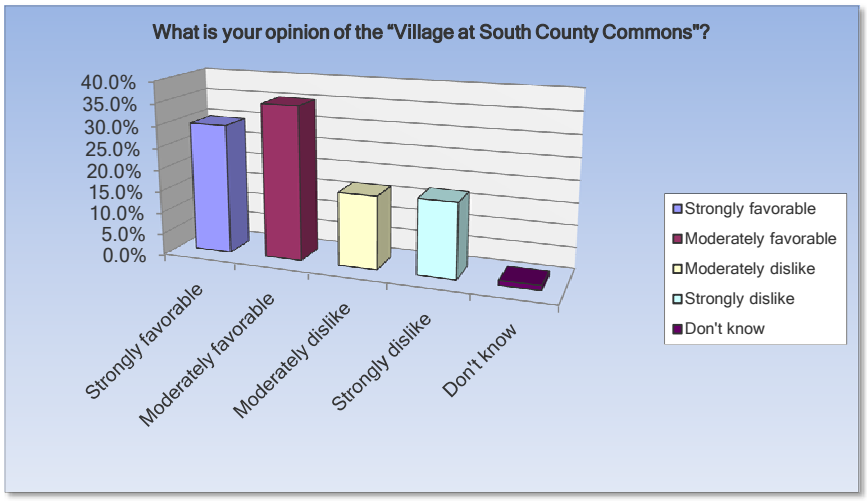
20.) The University of Rhode Island is considering the development of a research and technology park adjacent to campus. A research and technology park would consist of office buildings, laboratories, small manufacturing facilities, and associated parking areas. Such a facility has the potential to reduce the Town's dependence on residential property tax and provide employment opportunities but it may also create impacts on the local community regarding traffic, municipal services, etc. Please check the line that best describes your feelings about the development of a research and technology park in South Kingstown.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly favorable	51.5%	283
Moderately favorable	31.0%	170
Moderately dislike	6.7%	37
Strongly dislike	7.3%	40
Don't know	3.5%	19
answered question		**549**
skipped question		**4**



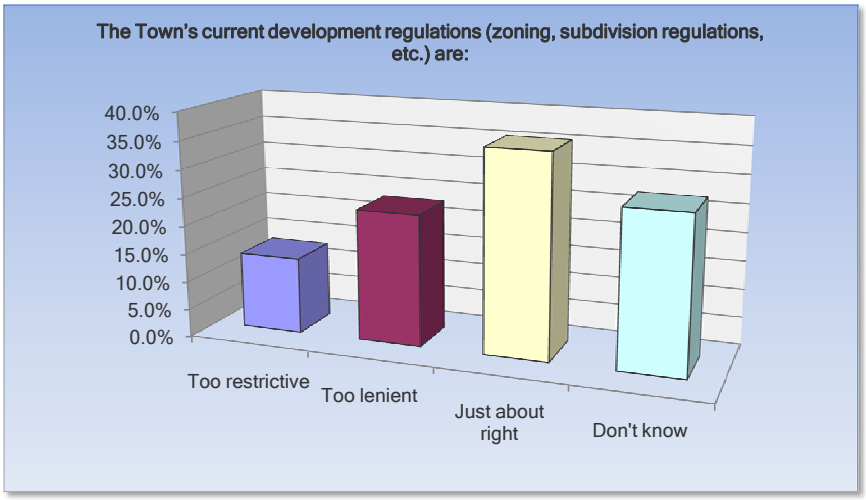
21.) The "Village at South County Commons" is a mixed-use development (uses include retail, commercial, office, hotel, theater, etc.) located off Route 1 in the Town's Route 1 Special Management District. The project was approved in 2000, it has been under development since and is now nearly built out. What is your opinion of the "Village at South County Commons"?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly favorable	29.7%	163
Moderately favorable	35.2%	193
Moderately dislike	16.8%	92
Strongly dislike	17.2%	94
Don't know	1.1%	6
answered question		**548**
skipped question		**5**



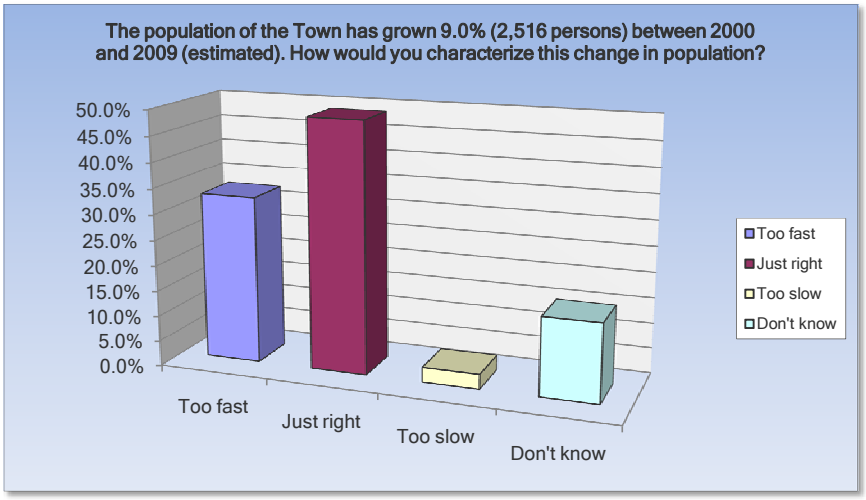
22.) The Town's current development regulations (zoning, subdivision regulations, etc.) are:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Too restrictive	13.5%	73
Too lenient	23.3%	126
Just about right	35.7%	193
Don't know	27.5%	149
answered question		541
skipped question		12



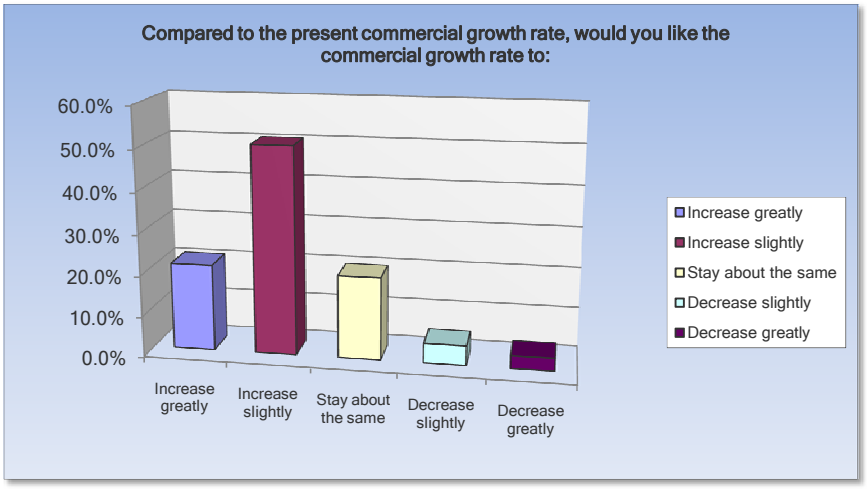
23.) The population of the Town has grown 9.0% (2,516 persons) between 2000 and 2009 (estimated). How would you characterize this change in population?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Too fast	32.8%	179
Just right	48.9%	267
Too slow	2.9%	16
Don't know	15.4%	84
answered question		546
skipped question		7



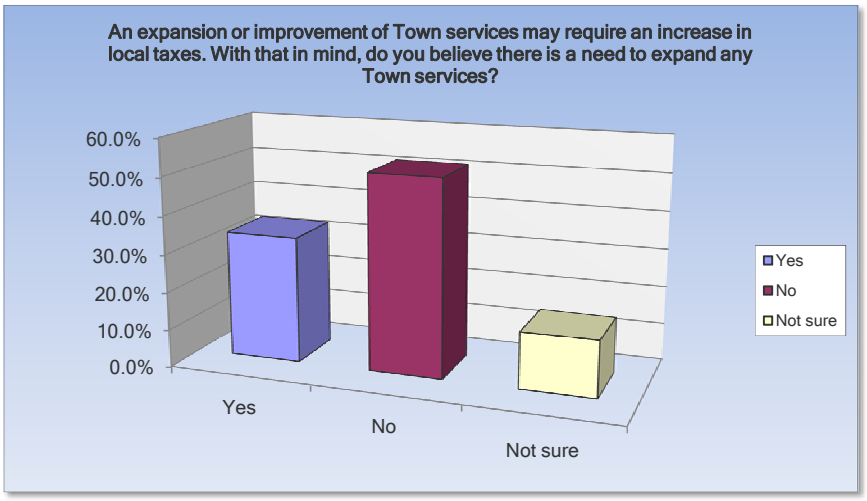
24.) Promotion of economic development (new stores, office buildings, restaurants and manufacturers) may diversify the Town's tax base and lessen the burden on residential properties to fund municipal services. Compared to the present commercial growth rate, would you like the commercial growth rate to:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Increase greatly	21.2%	115
Increase slightly	50.6%	274
Stay about the same	20.3%	110
Decrease slightly	4.8%	26
Decrease greatly	3.1%	17
answered question		542
skipped question		11



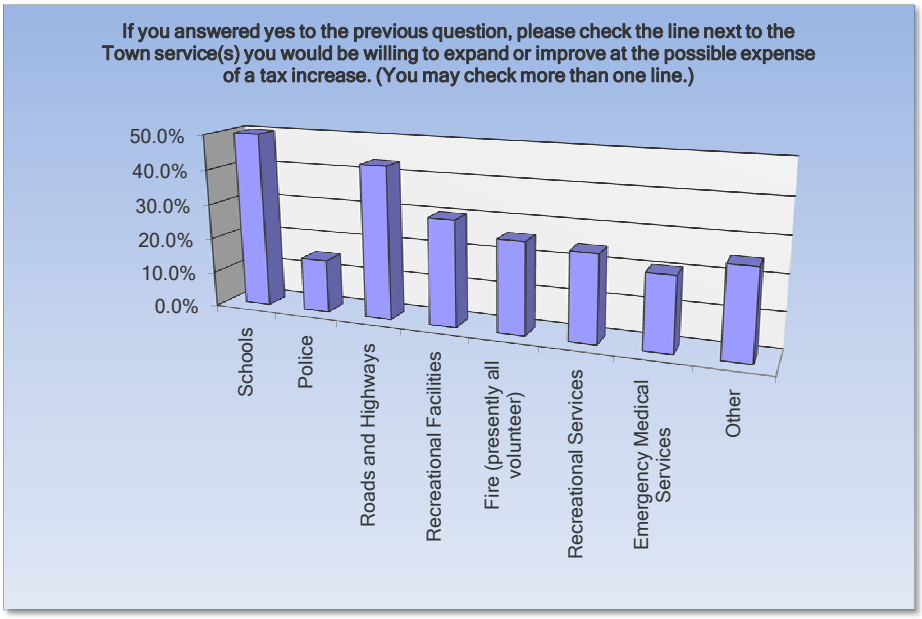
25.) An expansion or improvement of Town services may require an increase in local taxes. With that in mind, do you believe there is a need to expand any Town services?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	33.4%	182
No	51.7%	282
Not sure	14.9%	81
answered question		545
skipped question		8



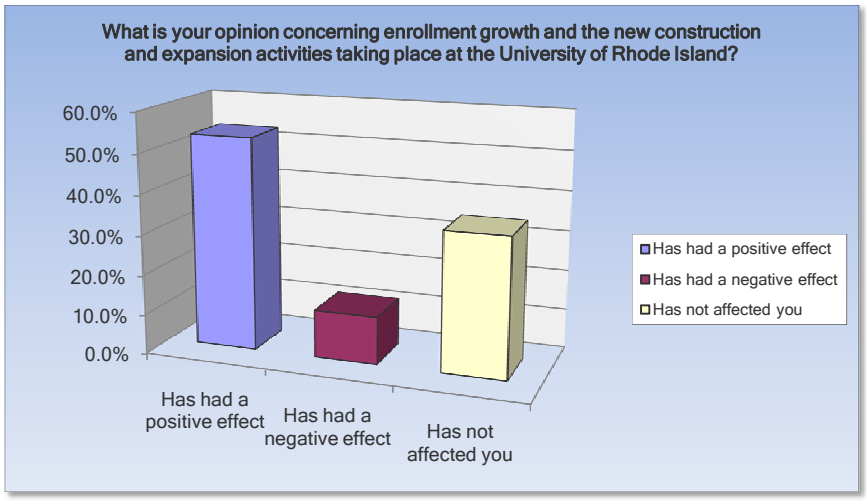
26.) If you answered yes to the previous question, please check the line next to the Town service(s) you would be willing to expand or improve at the possible expense of a tax increase. (You may check more than one line.)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Schools	50.0%	106
Police	15.1%	32
Roads and Highways	43.4%	92
Recreational Facilities	30.2%	64
Fire (presently all volunteer)	25.9%	55
Recreational Services	24.5%	52
Emergency Medical Services	20.8%	44
Other	25.0%	53
If you chose "other", what other Town services would you be willing to		74
answered question		212
skipped question		341



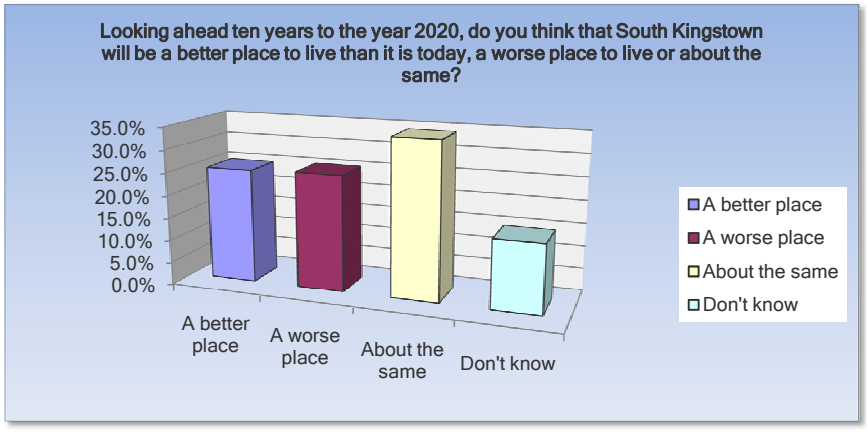
27.) What is your opinion concerning enrollment growth and the new construction and expansion activities taking place at the University of Rhode Island?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Has had a positive effect	53.3%	284
Has had a negative effect	12.0%	64
Has not affected you	34.7%	185
answered question		533
skipped question		20



28.) Looking ahead ten years to the year 2020, do you think that South Kingstown will be a better place to live than it is today, a worse place to live or about the same?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
A better place	25.1%	135
A worse place	25.5%	137
About the same	34.4%	185
Don't know	15.1%	81
Please use the space below to elaborate on your response to question		198
answered question		538
skipped question		15



TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN
PLANNING BOARD AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT

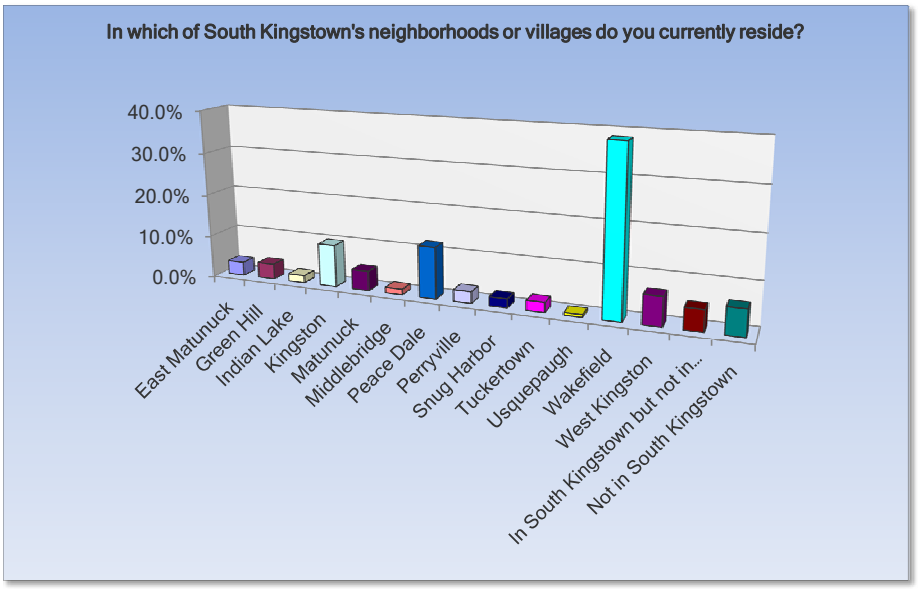
RESULTS OF SURVEY OF COMMUNITY ATTITUDES—DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

The following report provides a summary of results from the South Kingstown Survey of Community Attitudes regarding the "demographic questions" (# 29-37). A separate report available on the project website (www.horsleywitten.com/skingstown) provides a summary of results regarding the "community questions" (# 1-28). A summary of responses to the questions with written components (# 19, 26, and 28) will be made available by May 1st at the South Kingstown Planning Department:

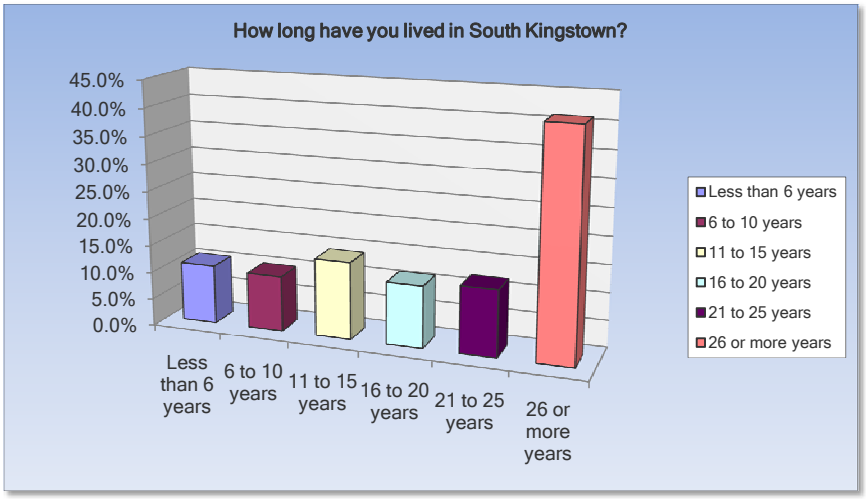
South Kingstown Planning Department
180 High Street
Wakefield, RI 02879
Phone: 401-789-9331 ext. 1244

The Survey of Community Attitudes was administered as part of the South Kingstown Comprehensive Plan Update—2010. The survey was conducted from February 10th – March 12th, 2010 and the Town received a total of 552 survey responses. The survey results will be compared to previous Town surveys and assessed for emerging trends and new ideas.

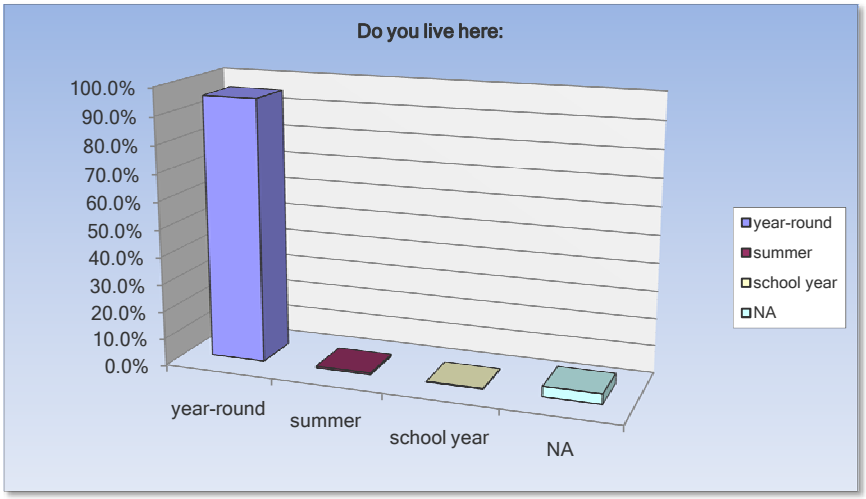
29.) In which of South Kingstown's neighborhoods or villages do you currently reside?		
Answer Options	**Response Percent**	**Response Count**
East Matunuck	3.2%	17
Green Hill	3.6%	19
Indian Lake	1.7%	9
Kingston	9.9%	52
Matunuck	4.6%	24
Middlebridge	1.3%	7
Peace Dale	12.0%	63
Perryville	2.7%	14
Snug Harbor	2.1%	11
Tuckertown	2.3%	12
Usquepaugh	0.6%	3
Wakefield	38.4%	202
West Kingston	6.7%	35
In South Kingstown but not in any village listed	4.9%	26
Not in South Kingstown	6.1%	32
	answered question	**526**
	skipped question	**27**



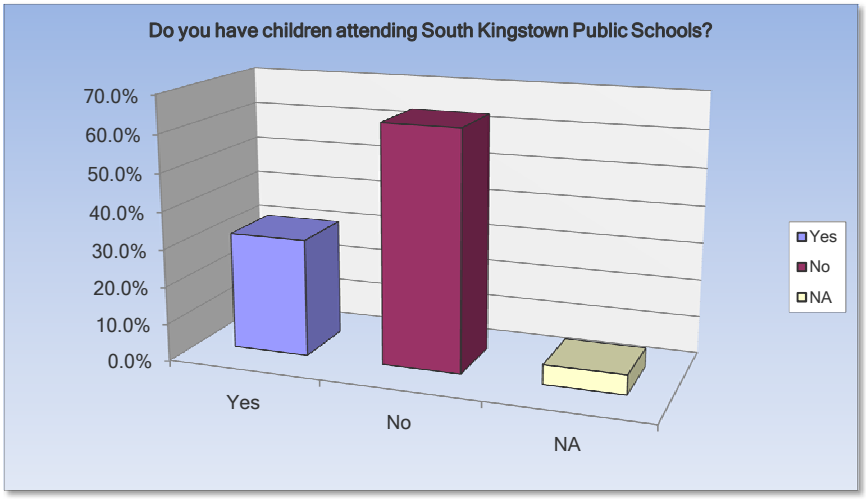
30.) How long have you lived in South Kingstown?		
Answer Options	**Response Percent**	**Response Count**
Less than 6 years	10.8%	54
6 to 10 years	10.2%	51
11 to 15 years	14.2%	71
16 to 20 years	11.4%	57
21 to 25 years	12.2%	61
26 or more years	41.1%	205
	answered question	**499**
	skipped question	**54**



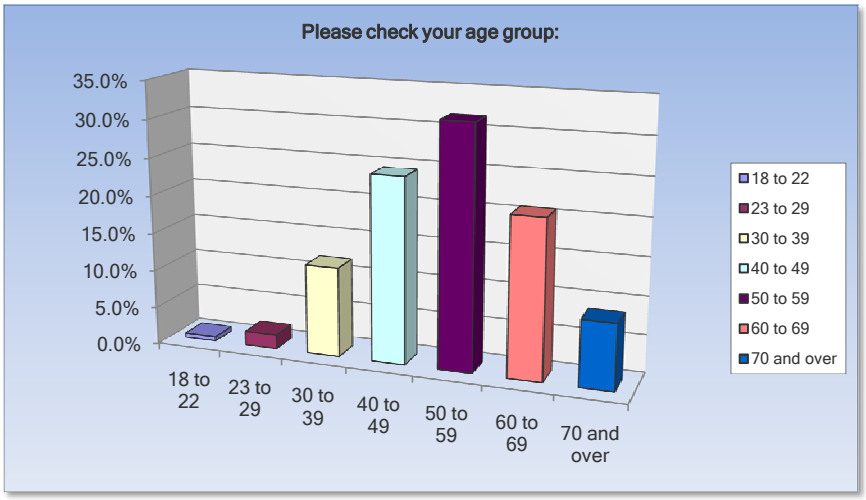
31.) Do you live here:		
Answer Options	**Response Percent**	**Response Count**
year-round	95.5%	492
summer	0.6%	3
school year	0.2%	1
NA	3.7%	19
	answered question	**515**
	skipped question	**38**



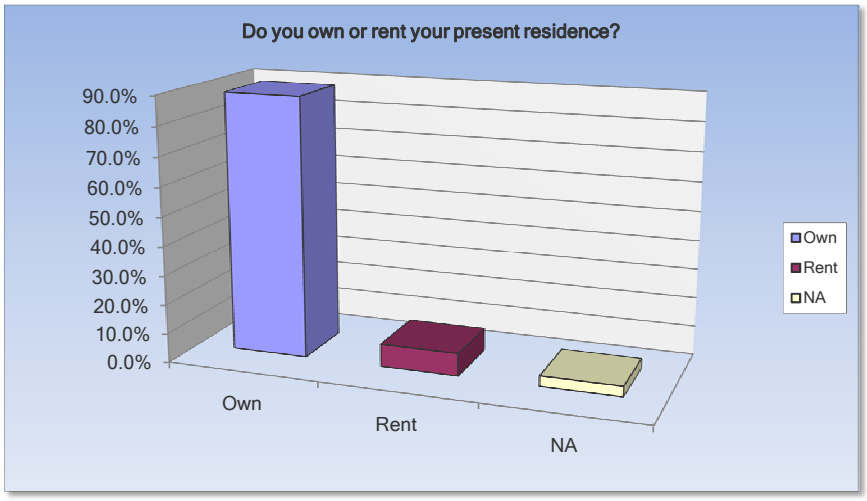
32.) Do you have children attending South Kingstown Public Schools?		
Answer Options	**Response Percent**	**Response Count**
Yes	31.3%	162
No	63.5%	329
NA	5.2%	27
	answered question	**518**
	skipped question	**35**



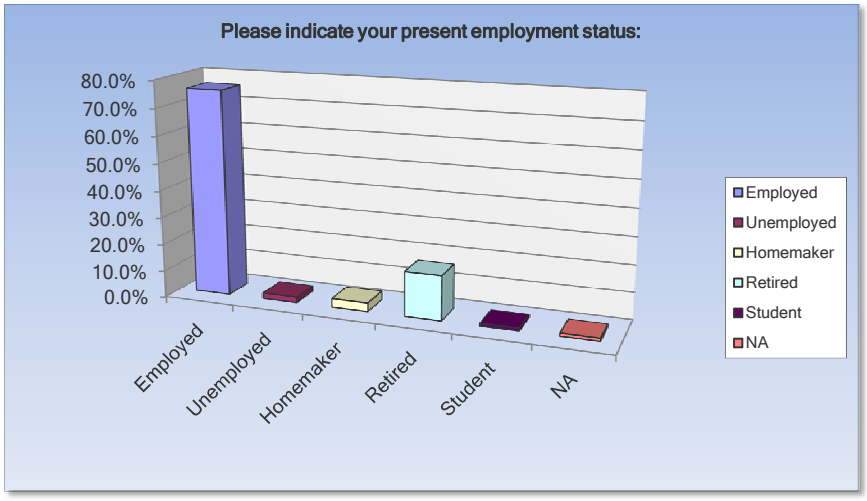
33.) Please check your age group:		
Answer Options	**Response Percent**	**Response Count**
18 to 22	0.6%	3
23 to 29	1.9%	10
30 to 39	11.9%	62
40 to 49	24.4%	127
50 to 59	31.7%	165
60 to 69	20.8%	108
70 and over	8.7%	45
	answered question	**520**
	skipped question	**33**



34.) Do you own or rent your present residence?		
Answer Options	**Response Percent**	**Response Count**
Own	88.8%	462
Rent	7.7%	40
NA	3.5%	18
	answered question	**520**
	skipped question	**33**

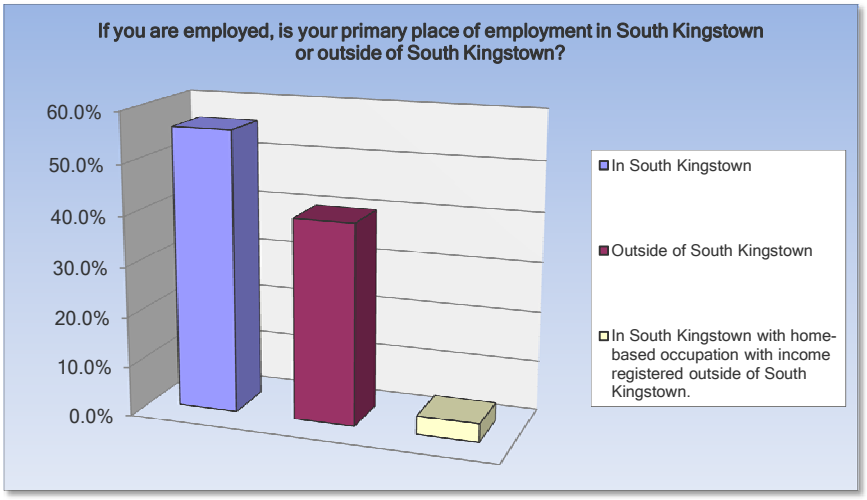


35.) Please indicate your present employment status:		
Answer Options	**Response Percent**	**Response Count**
Employed	76.0%	398
Unemployed	2.1%	11
Homemaker	3.2%	17
Retired	16.6%	87
Student	1.0%	5
NA	1.1%	6
	answered question	**524**
	skipped question	**29**



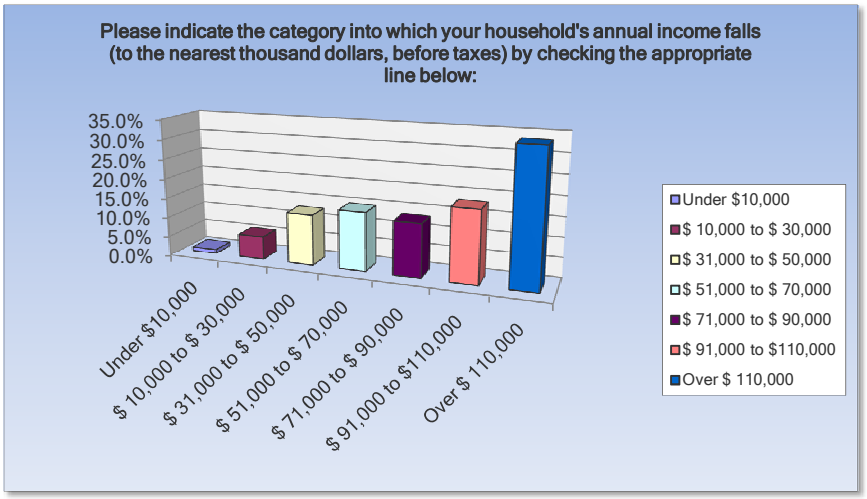
36.) If you are employed, is your primary place of employment in South Kingstown or outside of South Kingstown?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
In South Kingstown	56.1%	225
Outside of South Kingstown	40.1%	161
In South Kingstown with home-based occupation with	3.7%	15
answered question		401
skipped question		152



37.) Please indicate the category into which your household's annual income falls (to the nearest thousand dollars, before taxes) by checking the appropriate line below:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Under $10,000	1.0%	5
$ 10,000 to $ 30,000	5.9%	29
$ 31,000 to $ 50,000	12.9%	63
$ 51,000 to $ 70,000	14.9%	73
$ 71,000 to $ 90,000	13.5%	66
$ 91,000 to $110,000	18.2%	89
Over $ 110,000	33.5%	164
answered question		489
skipped question		64



Appendix B

- Matrix of Completed Goals and Policies: 2005 South Kingstown Comprehensive Community Plan

South Kingstown Comprehensive Plan Update
2014 Report Card of 2005 Community Comprehensive Plan Initiatives

Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
OVERALL GOAL OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: To create, maintain and improve a high quality of life for all the citizens of the Town					
LAND USE ELEMENT - To promote orderly growth patterns based upon the natural, cultural and historic character of the Town, the land's suitability for use and the aspirations of its citizens.					
GOAL 1:	**To establish land use policies consistent with the Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act of 1988, and to maintain continuity with the 1992 South Kingstown Comprehensive Plan**				
POLICY 1.1	The Town endorses the use of good comprehensive planning and its implementation as a means to preserve it's diverse landscape and remaining rural character, to balance the diverse needs of its citizens and to implement its land use policies	TC/PB			
POLICY 1.2	The Town recognizes the need to establish procedures to ensure that the goals of each element of this Plan are implemented and that any modification is evaluated for it's conformity with the Plan				
Implementation	The Town shall establish a procedure for assuring that policies and goals for each comprehensive plan element are implemented.	TC/PB/Plan. Dept.		**X**	
POLICY 1.3	The Town recognizes the that the Zoning Ordinance must conform to the provisions and intent of the Comp. Plan.	TC/PB/Plan. Dept.			
POLICY 1.4	The Town recognizes that any proposed zone change that does not conform with the Comp. Plan shall require a formal amendment to the Plan including a public hearing on the change.				
Implementation	The Town shall amend the Comp. Plan to reflect any zone changes	TC/PB		**X**	
POLICY 1.5	The Town recognizes that regulations governing the development review process should be written in a straightforward manner utilizing unambiguous language. This approach will make these regulations more understandable to the general public and easier to administer.				
Implementation	The South Kingstown Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision and Land Development Regulations and the Residential Design Manual Standards shall be reviewed and revised to improve implementation and to avoid ambiguity.	TC/PB/Plan. Dept.			**X**
POLICY 1.6	The Town recognizes the importance of regional planning with adjacent communities and with other Washington County communities.				

South Kingstown Comprehensive Plan Update
2014 Report Card of 2005 Community Comprehensive Plan Initiatives

Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
Implementation	The Town supports the Washington County Regional Planning Council process and will continue to participate in this endeavor.	TC/PB/Plan. Dept		**X**	
POLICY 1.7	The University of Rhode Island is recognized as a planning partner with the Town of South Kingstown.				
Implementation	The Director of Planning will continue to coordinate with the University of Rhode Island regarding projects of mutual concern or impact.	Plan. Dept.		**X**	
GOAL 2:	**To maintain a sustainable rate of population growth which is consistent with the ability of the Town to provide essential services, to achieve a stable tax rate, and to protect environmental, historic and cultural resources.**				
POLICY 2.1	The Town realizes that the fiscal, as well as the environmental and social impacts of new developments must be considered in the development review process.				
POLICY 2.2	The Town will continue to require landowners, builders and developers to address the cumulative impacts of the use, or proposed use, of their properties on the community. Each must pay his/her fair share of the community impact of the proposed use. Such impacts include, but are not limited to, water supply and sewage disposal, groundwater protection, traffic flow, provision of recreation and open space areas, and support of required Town services.	PB/Plan.Dept.			
POLICY 2.3	The Town will adopt regulations and ordinances that will minimize any adverse impacts from any proposed use of land. It is especially important that all landowners, contractors, builders, and developers consider the effect of any and all land use development under their jurisdiction on all elements of the community. They will be responsible for explaining their proposals and plans in an appropriate forum provided by the Town.	TC/PB/Plan.Dept./ Legal Counsel			
Implementation	The Town may require that significant new subdivisions be phased over a specified time frame to control the rapid influx of new residential construction	PB/Plan.Dept.		**X**	
POLICY 2.4	The Town will continue to relate the rate of commercial growth to the rate of population growth in its growth management programs in order to achieve stability to its tax rate and to provide necessary public services and facilities, while at the same time avoiding overdevelopment of commercial land uses which may alter the character of the Town.	TC/PB/Plan.Dept.			

South Kingstown Comprehensive Plan Update
2014 Report Card of 2005 Community Comprehensive Plan Initiatives

Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
POLICY 2.5	The Town recognizes that Build Out Analyses should be conducted every ten years to ascertain trends and to determine the success of growth management strategies.	TC/PB/Plan.Dept.			
Implementation	The Town shall continue to annually review its population projections, building permit data and rate of subdivision and commercial development in an attempt to balance significant increases in population or high rates of residential or commercial construction with concomitant restrictions on growth rates based on the capacity of the public school system or other critical Town capacities	TC/PB/Plan.Dept./TM		**X**	
Implementation	A Build Out Analysis shall be conducted within ten years of the prior study. It is recognized that this is a tool to enable the Town to track its success in implementing growth management strategies and is not a self-fulfilling prophecy for development	TC/PB/Plan. Dept.		**X**	
POLICY 2.6	The Town shall continue to work to provide opportunities for the production of affordable housing to maintain residential diversity and to assure that local shops and offices will have a sufficient employment pool.				
Implementation	The Town shall implement inclusionary zoning in accordance with the recommendations of the Affordable Housing Study	TC/PB/Plan.Dept.	**X**		
GOAL 3:	**To promote and require high standards of development to preserve and enhance the quality of life, to encourage a sense of community and to protect the natural resources of the Town**				
POLICY 3.1	The Town realizes that its rural, small-town character and natural resources must be protected and enhanced through appropriate land use regulations, design guidelines, environmental protection, site planning and landscaping regulations.	PB/Plan.Dept			
POLICY 3.2	The Town will encourage landscape diversity that creates identity and a sense of place, fosters the creation of distinct neighborhoods and villages, and recognizes the natural features of the land.	PB/Plan.Dept			
POLICY 3.3	The Town discourages future residential growth which contributes to monotonous suburban-style subdivisions and encourages a high quality of design in creation of new neighborhoods. The process of growth must be directed toward the creation of communities and directed away from urban sprawl.	PB/Plan.Dept			

South Kingstown Comprehensive Plan Update
2014 Report Card of 2005 Community Comprehensive Plan Initiatives

Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
POLICY 3.4	The Town is opposed to the new construction or expansion of existing commercial uses which contribute to strip highway commercial development patterns along major roads, or which are characterized by suburban-type shopping centers dominated by parking lots.	PB/Plan.Dept			
POLICY 3.5	The Town discourages the creation of multiple driveways along the frontage of existing public streets in such a way as to create traffic safety hazards and contribute to visual degradation of scenic roadside areas.	PB/Plan.Dept			
Implementation	The Town shall permit the conversion of private streets to public streets for the purposes of maintenance according to an explicit road acceptance policy as adopted by the Town Council. In particular, lots created outside the subdivision process (so-called hockey stick lots) must be replatted and approved by the Planning Board in accordance with the Subdivision Regulations. Prior to any Town acceptance of such private streets, including those in residential compounds or in minor subdivisions, the Planning Board shall first be required to review and approve the replatting of these streets and lots in conformity with standards contained in the Subdivision Regulations. The Town's policy is not to extend road maintenance services to these areas as they are presently platted	TC/DPS		**X**	
POLICY 3.6	The Town will work with the Coastal Resources Management Council and RI Department of Environmental Management to ensure that, to the extent permitted under the RI General Laws and regulations governing those agencies, assents and permits will be consistent with the community comprehensive plan and local zoning requirements.				
Implementation	To preserve the quality of natural resources, the Town reserves the right, as permitted by applicable State law, to require more stringent standards than the minimum standards applied by the Coastal Resources Management Council and RI Department of Environmental Management in their assent and permitting processes	TC/PB/Plan.Dept.		**X**	
POLICY 3.7	In accordance with Element 156 of the State Guide Plan, “RI Urban and Community Forest Plan” the Town encourages the preservation and protection of trees in the built environment by supporting policies and principles of good urban and community forestry.				

South Kingstown Comprehensive Plan Update
2014 Report Card of 2005 Community Comprehensive Plan Initiatives

Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
Goal 4:	**To control urban sprawl and dispersion, to preserve the integrity of existing villages within the Town, and to encourage diversity of the residential population**				
POLICY 4.1	The Town supports a control of urban sprawl and dispersion by concentrating areas of population density in the main Town centers and by providing these areas with public trans-portation, services, facilities, and housing opportunities. The Town supports infill of development within the Central Core.	TC/PB/Plan. Dept.			
Implementation	The Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations shall be revised to include special provisions for Village Districts. These provisions will include regulations controlling the size, shape and location of lots and open spaces, parking, signage, yards, setbacks, street widths, land-scaping and site plan review for both residential and commercial uses. Village Districts shall allow mixed uses to foster walkable communities and shall encourage infill (to direct growth from outlying rural areas of town	TC/PB/Plan.Dept.			**X**
Implementation	The Town supports development and revitalization within older village areas as walkable communities, with bike paths and transit, with access to appropriately scaled mixed use commercial and office development	TC/PB/Plan.Dept.		**X**	
POLICY 4.2	The Town believes that the distinctions between the outlying villages of Matunuck, Perryville, Usquepaugh, Snug Harbor, Middlebridge, and Green Hill and the central core area of Wakefield - Peace Dale - Kingston must not be lost by the outward expansion of residential subdivisions and/or highway-related commercial development				
Implementation	Recommendations of An Inventory and Analysis of the Village and Rural Qualities of South Kingstown, prepared by Volunteers in 11 Districts and the URI Working Group on Growth Management, July 16, 1998 shall be reviewed and implemented as appropriate.	TC/PB/Plan.Dept.		**X**	
POLICY 4.3	The Town supports the zoning recommendations of the Affordable Housing Study (Barbara Sokoloff Associates).				
Implementation	Recommendations of The South Kingstown Affordable Housing Study, prepared by Barbara Sokoloff Associates (October 2003) for inclusionary zoning shall be implemented	TC/PB/Plan.Dept.		**X**	
POLICY 4.4	The Town supports zoning amendments to encourage mixed use in village centers, especially in areas which are walkable from adjacent neighborhoods.				

South Kingstown Comprehensive Plan Update
2014 Report Card of 2005 Community Comprehensive Plan Initiatives

Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
POLICY 4.5	The Town supports the designation of Growth Centers within the town to encourage growth in economically and environmentally sound locations.				
Implementation	The Town shall identify growth centers, as recommended by the Governor's Growth Planning Council, as a way to encourage growth in economically and environmentally sound locations. The central core and the many villages in town could be identified as growth centers under the State's criteria. Responsible Party: Town Council, Planning Board, Planning Department	TC/PB/Plan.Dept.		**X**	
POLICY 4.6	The Town supports continues revitalization of downtowns and commercial districts using neo-traditional planning techniques to encourage friendly and safe development.				
Implementation	The Town shall continue to evaluate and implement appropriate revitalization strategies for downtowns of Wakefield and Peace Dale using neo-traditional planning techniques to encourage friendly and safe development. The Town shall also implement neo-traditional planning techniques in commercial districts along Old Tower Hill Road and Kingstown Road to encourage pedestrian-scale design solutions	TC/PB/Plan.Dept.		**X**	
Goal 5:	**To create affordable housing opportunities for all income levels, age groups and population types within the Town - See Housing Element**				
POLICY 5.1	The Town believes that improved communication between the Town Planning Department and the citizens of this community will result in better understanding of the planning process and planning issues within the Town.				
Implementation	The Planning Department and Planning Board will, as part of their annual work program, evaluate and implement appropriate measures to foster better communication and information on the planning function within the community. Such measures may include: a departmental planning procedure and outreach efforts to community groups.	TM/PB/Plan.Dept.		**X**	

Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
HOUSING ELEMENT - To encourage a range of housing choices in order that the Town can continue to be a home to a vital mix of people					
GOAL 1:	**To keep SK a community that is home to a vital mix of people by maintaining a wide range of housing options, through a combination of innovative regulatory mechanisms, public and private initiatives, and joint public and private ventures.**				
POLICY 1.1	The Town supports providing housing opportunities for people of varying ages, lifestyles, and stages of the lifecycle, including: singles, couples, single parents, families, seniors citizens, the handicapped, and students.				
POLICY 1.2	The Town supports providing affordable housing opportunities for people not served by the private housing market, including: a) people with no income and people on public assistance; b) people with low to moderate incomes who cannot afford to purchase a home and may have difficulty renting; and, c) moderate and middle income members of the local work force.				
POLICY 1.3	The Town supports providing housing opportunities for year-round renters, first time buyers, and homeowners who need or choose to change their living arrangements due to lifecycle and/or altered physical and financial capabilities.				
POLICY 1.4	The Town supports an ongoing program of advocating and administering affordable housing through the coordinated efforts of Town officials and boards, the South Kingstown Housing Authority, community non-profit organizations, and ad-hoc citizen committees.				
POLICY 1.5	The Town supports achieving a goal of maintaining long-term affordability for approximately 10 (ten) percent of the Town's housing stock.				
POLICY 1.6	The Town supports designing programs that meet the needs of current residents and locally employed people, without developing preference systems that effectively discriminate against minorities.				
POLICY 1.7	The Town supports the concept of open negotiations for needed housing opportunities as part of the development review process.				
Implementation	The Town shall establish an Affordable Housing Collaborative and Trust Fund to increase the number of perpetually affordable housing units in Town.	TC/Plan.Dept.	**X**		

South Kingstown Comprehensive Plan Update
2014 Report Card of 2005 Community Comprehensive Plan Initiatives

Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
Implementation	The Town shall amend its land use regulations to stimulate production of needed housing opportunities by private landowners and developers by providing sufficient stock of RM and R-10 zoned land, and through such mechanisms as inclusionary zoning (i.e. mandatory provision of affordable housing, density bonuses, or off-site inclusionary exactions), removal of cost generating subdivision standards, and conversions of existing structures	TC/PD/PB/SK Housing Authority	**X**		
Implementation	The Town shall review each proposal for affordable housing in subdivisions on a case-by-case basis to determine the applicability of various improvements	PD/PB		**X**	
Implementation	The Town shall promote the development of elderly and other higher density housing where there are public sewers and water, and such safe and convenient support facilities as walkways, traffic control and public transportation	TC/PD/PB/SK Housing Authority		**X**	
Implementation	The Town shall maintain a working, supportive relationship with State agencies and the nonprofit, social service community to develop a comprehensive policy as it relates to its homeless population. The Town will establish and maintain support systems to facilitate the homeless person's integration into the community	TC/PB		**X**	
Implementation	The Town shall attempt to acquire or to lease below-market rate parcels of land for production of affordable units.	TM/TC/Plan. Dept./Afford. Housing Foundation		**X**	
GOAL 2:	**To accommodate needed housing in a manner consistent with South Kingstown's physical, social and financial resources**				
POLICY 2.1	The Town supports a mix affordable and market rate housing units throughout South Kingstown and the development of small-scale, scattered site affordable housing developments.				
POLICY 2.2	The Town supports a combination of affordable owner-occupied and rental units, and a distribution of these affordable units among all housing types.				
POLICY 2.3	The Town encourages the restoration and preservation of its historic residential, commercial and industrial buildings.				
Implementation	The Town shall identify potential sites upon which development of affordable should be encouraged, using such criteria as environmental constraints, levels of infrastructure, and existing regulatory mechanisms	Plan.Dept./Tax Assessor		**X**	
Implementation	The Town shall target a desired number of types of housing units within certain price ranges and periodically evaluate this goal.	Plan.Dept./PB/Afford. Housing Collab.		**X**	

South Kingstown Comprehensive Plan Update
2014 Report Card of 2005 Community Comprehensive Plan Initiatives

Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
Implementation	The Town shall consider amending land use regulations to allow limited residential uses in commercial zones, adaptive re-use of industrial buildings, and duplexes in more zones.	TC/Plan.Dept./PB			**X**
Implementation	The Town actively shall seek to achieve construction of some affordable units on Town-owned land.	TC/Plan.Dept./Afford. Housing Collab.		**X**	
Implementation	The Town shall investigate various incentive for non-profit organizations to make some of their land holding available for affordable housing.	Plan.Dept./Afford. Housing Collab.		**X**	
Implementation	The Town shall work with developers to obtain assistance from State and federal programs for affordable housing.	TM/TC/Plan. Dept.		**X**	
Implementation	The Town shall implement the major recommendations of the "Town of South Kingstown Affordable Housing Study" October 2003, report prepared by Sokoloff and Associates as prioritized by the Town Council in their October 14, 2003 resolution accepting the study.	TC/PB/Plan.Dept./Afford. Housing Collab.		**X**	

South Kingstown Comprehensive Plan Update
2014 Report Card of 2005 Community Comprehensive Plan Initiatives

Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT - To promote quality economic and employment opportunities while protecting the natural resources and cultural values of the Town					
GOAL 1:	**To follow a path of balanced economic growth having the following attributes: a) protection of sensitive environmental areas; b) provision of economic opportunities; c), protection of the public health, safety and welfare; and d) stabilization of an affordable municipal tax rate**				
POLICY 1.1	The Town encourages the revitalization of the central business district on old Main Street, within the Village of Peace Dale and the business district along Old Tower Road-Dale Carlia intersection- Kingstown Road in Wakefield.				
Implementation	The Town will continue to support the revitalization of the Wakefield central business district and commercial districts within the Village of Peace Dale through a multifaceted program including rehabilitation programs, public and private initiatives, the use of Federal tax incentives, parking lot construction, bike path construction, development of multimodal transportation opportunities (including walking), Saugatucket River Greenway construction and construction of affordable housing	TC/Plan.Dept./PB/Chamber of Commerce		**X**	
Implementation	The Town will encourage a formal strategy to encourage more businesses to establish or expand as infill in the Core.	TC/Plan.Dept./PB		**X**	
Implementation	The Town will work with URI to implement a comprehensive transportation system to commercial areas.	TC/Plan.Dept./PB		**X**	
POLICY 1.2	The Town encourages adaptive reuse of the Peace Dale Mill as a mixed-use development including the retention of manufacturing while providing for small business and commercial development, artisan uses and potential housing opportunities.				
Implementation	The Town will evaluate and implement, as appropriate, the recommendations of the ongoing efforts of the Palisades Mill Reuse Feasibility Study Committee. It is noted that implementation of a mixed-use development concept for the mill complex will require modification of the zoning ordinance	TC/Plan.Dept./PB			**X**
Implementation	The Town will promote and support an emerging identity for Peace Dale as an arts center.	TC/Plan.Dept./PB		**X**	

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Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
POLICY 1.3	The Town recognizes the importance of diversifying the local economic base to minimize dependence on residential tax revenue, to raise the skill level and average wage of persons working in South Kingstown, to help support a diverse population and maintain a flexible economy, which is not reliant on one type of industry.				
Implementation	The Town will work with the University of Rhode Island as a resource for technical expertise to help realize the Town goals of economic development.	TM/Plan.Dept.		**X**	
Implementation	The Town will encourage development of a stronger economic development plan which focuses on light industry, research/development and commercial offices	TC/Plan.Dept./PB		**X**	
POLICY 1.4	The Town opposes commercial strip development and supports the clustering/village concept of commercial development.				
Implementation	The Town will amend the zoning ordinance to prevent commercial strip development and to foster the clustering/village concept of commercial development.	TC/Plan.Dept./PB			**X**
Implementation	The Town will revise the parking requirements in the Zoning Ordinance for commercial and industrial projects to avoid overpaving yet include appropriate parking ratios, and to require buffering and landscaping of parking areas.	TC/Plan.Dept./PB			**X**
Implementation	The Town will review and implement, as appropriate, the recommendations of the ongoing consulting study entitled: “Revisions to the South Kingstown Zoning Ordinance to Promote New Urbanism and Traditional Downtown Development and Redevelopment”.	TC/Plan.Dept.PB		**X**	
POLICY 1.5	The Town supports the contributions of the University of Rhode Island to the local and regional economy, e.g. research and development activities which may be related to engineering/robotics, bio-technology, plant and soil science, environmental resources, oceanography, coastal management and technology.				
Implementation	The Town will work with URI to support research expansion and potential spin off of new businesses, utilizing the State of Rhode Island’s incentives for research and development.	TM/Plan.Dept./PB		**X**	

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Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
POLICY 1.6	The Town supports the continued development of the intermodal transportation facility at the Kingston railroad station in an effort to encourage the use of public transportation in South Kingstown. The Kingston station is second only to Providence in frequency of Rhode Island stops. Amtrak passenger trains pass through over a dozen communities between Boston and Connecticut, with Kingston being one of only three stops.				
Implementation	The Town will work with the State to market Amtrak and to increase the availability of public transportation. The Town will work with RIDOT to initiate MBTA commuter service to Kingston Station as a second phase of the South County Commuter Rail project.	TM/Plan.Dept./DPS		**X**	
Implementation	The Town will identify vacant developable land suitable for industrial use with the necessary infrastructure in order to provide areas for new industry which are not located over groundwater resources or in other environmentally sensitive areas.	Plan.Dept./Tax Assessor			**X**
Implementation	The Town should maintain a current inventory of any commercial and industrial buildings or properties that are underutilized or vacant. This inventory should be available to potential developers or business interests.	Plan.Dept./Tax Assessor/Chamber of Commerce		**X**	
GOAL 2:	**To manage tourism on a regional basis in South County to both encourage economic development and to preserve and to enhance its environmental, scenic and historic resources**				
POLICY 2.1	The Town will promote sound local economics by protecting the area's unique resources from developments that may cause irreversible damage.				
Implementation	The Town should establish and support a network of volunteers whose work implements the plans and enhances the values the Town seeks to protect.	ConCom/TM/Plan.Dept.		**X**	
POLICY 2.2	The Town supports the creation of bikeways, walkways, and linear parkways to link South County communities.				
Implementation	The Town will continue to work with the State, adjacent municipalities, and various conservation groups to promote a system of bikeways, walkways, and linear parks.	Plan. Dept./DPS		**X**	
POLICY 2.3	The Town supports the protection of historic resources, landmarks, and scenic landscapes as an important component of the tourist economy.				
Implementation	The Town will continue to promote a regional approach to dealing with State agencies whose policies affect the scenic, historic, and natural resources of South County.	Plan.Dept./Chamb. Com		**X**	

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Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
Implementation	The Town should encourage continued cooperation among South County communities and the South County Tourism Council to support and package tourism through local meetings and workshops.	Plan.Dept./Chamb. Com		**X**	

Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
NATURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT - To preserve, protect and enhance the Town's natural resources, many of which are not renewable, and to integrate these into planning for the future through the plan review and approval process.					
GOAL 1:	**To protect and to preserve the quality and quantity of the Town's potable water supply**				
POLICY 1.1	The Town recognizes that most of its drinking water is from a Sole Source Aquifer and that no reasonable alternate source exists. Therefore, a Town priority is the protection of the groundwater resources. Because the ground and surface waters are interconnected, strategies must be implemented to preserve quality of ground and surface waters.				
Implementation	Groundwater Protection Overlay District - The Town has adopted a groundwater protection overlay district (1991) to include the groundwater reservoirs and the recharge areas as delineated by RIDEM. The purpose of the ordinance is to protect, to preserve, and to maintain the quality and supply of groundwater in the Town of South Kingstown. This ordinance shall be monitored for its effectiveness and updated as necessary.	Plan.Dept./PB		**X**	
POLICY 1.2	The Town recognizes that the supply of potable water from the aquifers is limited. The Town will work toward protecting the quantity of potable water and will link growth management plans to the amount of water available for both residential and non-residential uses. The Town shall continue to work with the RI State Water Resources Board regarding water use allocation.				
Implementation	State Groundwater Legislation -The Town shall endorse State legislation to regulate groundwater withdrawal.	TC		**X**	
Implementation	The Town shall work to protect and promote the quality of groundwater supplies used by either private wells or by water districts.	TM/PSD		**X**	
POLICY 1.3	The Town will give priority use to drinking water.				
Implementation	The Town shall project the potable water needs of South Kingstown for the next twenty (20) years and develop and water use priority for water pumped from GAA areas to include both residential and nonresidential uses.	Plan.Dept./PSD		**X**	

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Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
POLICY 1.4	The Town recognizes that a watershed management approach to resource protection and utilization is necessary. It is therefore necessary to plan on both a Town-wide and regional basis based upon watershed boundaries to coordinate resource management issues. It also means that such programs as erosion and sediment control, stormwater management, aquifer use and protection, and open space acquisition need to be planned on both a Town-wide and inter-town (regional) basis.				
Implementation	Land Inventory - The Town shall continue to protect lands overlying groundwater reservoirs through its Open Space acquisition program. Groundwater protection remains a priority of that program.	Plan.Dept./GIS Div./PWS		**X**	
Implementation	Coordination with Water Supply Agencies - The Town shall continue to work with private water suppliers and adjacent towns to develop compatible water protection plans.	PSD/Plan.Dept./PWS			**X**
Implementation	Deicing Practices - The Town shall work with the State to implement salting practices which minimize degradation of ground and surface waters in GAA watershed areas.	TM/Plan.Dept./DPW			**X**
Implementation	Public Education - The Town shall continue to integrate groundwater issues into public education programs: water conservation, household hazardous waste, septic systems, underground storage tanks (home heating fuel), pesticides, and other groundwater information	Plan.Dept./ConCom/PWS		**X**	
Implementation	Underground Storage Tanks (UST) -The Town shall implement ordinances on underground storage tanks to address the issues of tank monitoring strategies, tank removal, and tank prohibitions. Ordinances adopted by the Town on underground storage tanks will be consistent with CRMC goals and regulations.				**X**
GOAL 2:	**To protect and to preserve both freshwater and coastal wetland resources**				

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Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
POLICY 2.1	The Town will work toward protecting the integrity of the varied wetlands which serve many important ecological and economic functions. Protection efforts will be directed toward swamps, marshes, bogs, floodplains, wet meadows, aquatic beds, beaches, and all other wetlands as defined by RIDEM Freshwater Wetlands Act, April 1998, as amended, and CRMC's Freshwater Wetlands in the Vicinity of the Coast Program, and Section 210.3 of the RICRMP. The Town will pursue both regulatory and non-regulatory options for ensuring the protection of these resources				
Implementation	To the extent permitted under applicable State law and agency regulation the Town shall work with RIDEM and CRMC to establish the regulatory right of the Town to deny and / or condition Freshwater Wetlands Permits based on compliance with the comprehensive plan.	TM/Plan.Dept./ConCom		**X**	
Implementation	Stormwater Management - The Town shall implement recommendations of its RIPDES Phase II Stormwater Management Plan	PSD/TM/TC		**X**	
Implementation	Wetland Protection Ordinance	TC/Plan.Dept./PB/ConCom			**X**
Implementation	State Wetland Permit Tracking System - The Town shall develop a system to track the State wetland permits to identify areas of wetland disturbance and to monitor compliance with local and State approval conditions.	Plan.Dept./ConCom			**X**
Implementation	Wetlands Protection Checklist - The Town shall develop a wetlands protection checklist for development proposals. This would formalize recommendations made in the Rhode Island Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook (1989), as amended, and the RIDEM Stormwater Management Recommendations (1988), as amended. The checklist shall be used by the Conservation Commission and Planning Board to ensure a consistent wetland protection policy.	Plan. Dept./ConCom/PB			**X**
POLICY 2.2	The Town recognizes that the irreplaceable coastal resources need comprehensive protection. The Town will take a regional watershed approach, critical to preserving these fragile resources, to address land use, stormwater runoff, and all point and non-point source pollution. The Town will pursue management strategies consistent with the Coastal Resources Management Council's Special Area Management Plan for the Salt Ponds (1999) and the Special Area Management Plan for the Narrow River (1999)				

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Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
Implementation	Special Area Management (SAM) Plans The Town shall amend the Zoning Map to reflect the recommendations of the RICRMC Narrow River SAM Plan (1999) and the Salt Ponds SAM Plan (1999), and the Town shall pass a Town Council Resolution endorsing both SAM plans.	TC/Plan.Dept./PB	X		
Implementation	Harbor Management – The Town shall continue implementation of the November 1992 Harbor Management Plan	TM		X	
Implementation	Barrier Beaches - The Town shall work with RICRMC to ensure the protection of undeveloped barrier beaches in South Kingstown, specifically, Green Hill, Browning, and Moonstone beaches. The Town will work to support the policies outlined in the RICRMC Coastal Resources Management Program, 1990, as amended. The Town shall work to minimize development on developed barrier beaches and to ensure that any construction is done in a way which creates the least environmental impact.	Plan.Dept./ConCom		X	
Implementation	In the consideration of permits or other regulatory actions for projects within the CRMC Special Area Management Plans the Town will work with the agency to ensure that, to the extent feasible under State law and the SAMP Plan policies, such permits and regulatory actions are consistent with this Comprehensive Community Plan	TM/Plan.Dept./ConCom		X	
POLICY 2.3	The Town will work toward developing a corridor of open space throughout the Town to ensure the protection of wetlands, agricultural lands, scenic features, groundwater reservoirs and recharge areas, and wildlife habitat.	.			
Implementation	The Town shall continue its Open Space Acquisition program to implement this policy.	Plan.Dept.		X	
POLICY 2.4	The Town supports the concept of corridor zoning to provide for a conservation zone or greenway along selected rivers within the Town, in order to both maintain the rural character of the Town and to protect river resources.				
GOAL 3:	**To protect and preserve agriculture land within the Town**				
POLICY 3.1	The Town supports the preservation of farmland for farming activities. The Town supports utilizing a combination regulatory techniques (zoning) and of public and private funding resources (land trusts, easements, purchase of development rights) to achieve the necessary protection.				

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Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
Implementation	The Town shall continue its preservation of agricultural through the Open Space acquisition program.			X	
Implementation	The Town shall consider developing a farmland/open space overlay district based on prime agricultural soils, historic farm use, character of the surrounding area, and open space. Development shall be guided to appropriate areas on the property through site plan and review.				X
Implementation	The Town shall continue its public education program to make landowners aware of the variety of protection options and environmentally sound management practices.			X	
POLICY 3.2	The Town recognizes that there is a significant amount of agricultural activity in South Kingstown. There is the potential for ground and surface water degradation from fertilizers, pesticides, stormwater, and soil erosion. The Town will work with appropriate agencies to mitigate the potential contamination of the water resources from these sources.				
GOAL 4:	**To protect and preserve other natural resource areas within the Town**				
POLICY 4.1	The Town recognizes that native species of trees and forests are a				
Implementation	The Town shall inventory the indigenous habitat types (using RIGIS) and identify areas which need protection. The protection program shall be coordinated with State and conservation organization programs.	TC/PB/Plan.Dept./ConCom/Tree Warden/DPW		X	
Implementation	The Town shall implement the Rhode Island Urban and Community Forest Plan. According to this plan, South Kingstown is nearly 53 percent forested (20,700 acres in a 1988 inventory). The 2010 target is to retain 98 percent of this base. The objective is to retain/enhance canopy coverage in developed areas and practice sustainable management of large forested tracts, recognizing that land clearance and development will continue.				X

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Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
Implementation	The Conservation Commission shall strengthen its activities in the following areas: Pursuing acquisition by gift, purchase, or lease of lands identified as having significant conservation value; management of these lands and improvement of their value for conservation or passive recreation; active advocacy for environmental legislation at the State and local level; developing public education and information programs; and, working with the Planning Department to develop a tracking system for approval conditions for development included in approvals to ensure compliance.	ConCom/Plan.Dept.			**X**
POLICY 4.2	The Town recognizes that natural resource preservation and conservation will be realized more effectively if protection efforts are coordinated with other towns, State and Federal agencies, and private conservation groups.				
Implementation	The Town shall continue to work with adjacent towns and the Washington County Regional Planning Council to develop compatible resource protection plans.			**X**	
Implementation	The Town shall work with the Rhode Island Nature Conservancy, the South Kingstown and Narrow River Land Trusts, The Saugatucket River Heritage Corridor Coalition, the water suppliers, and the State to protect environmentally sensitive areas through acquisition, easements, or purchase of development rights. Additional non-regulatory protection strategies shall be identified.	TM/Plan.Dept.		**X**	
POLICY 4.3	The Town recognizes that a litter control program, coordinated with RIDEM, is needed to improve the aesthetics of the Town.				
GOAL 5:	**To expand the measures available for protecting cultural resources to provide maximum protection to South Kingstown's historic and prehistoric resources.**				
POLICY 5.1	The Town will continue to expand its inventory of: a) historic buildings and structures; and, b) historic and prehistoric archaeological sites, making sure that all aspects and periods of South Kingstown's history are identified and represented.				

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Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
Implementation	The Town shall continue to encourage nominations to the National Register of individual historic buildings and districts and archaeological sites and districts, especially as resources become eligible (50 years). The Town shall consider keeping a copy of this inventory on file with a local cultural repository such as the Peace Dale Library to be available to the general public for research and reference needs. Other repositories which could be investigated include RIDOT's repository at the Woonsocket Depot.	Plan.Dept./HDC/Library Dept.			**X**
POLICY 5.2	The Town will expand the measures available for protecting cultural resources to provide maximum protection to South Kingstown's historic and prehistoric resources.				
Implementation	The Town shall amend the Historic District Ordinance to include the elements of the current enabling legislation.	TC/PB/Plan.Dept./HDC			**X**
Implementation	The Town shall consider establishing additional historic districts in locations including, but not limited to, Usquepaug, Peace Dale, and Wakefield.	TC/PB/Plan.Dept./HDC			**X**
Implementation	The Town shall research the establishment of an ordinance requiring a waiting period where a historic building is proposed for demolition. The waiting period would permit alternatives to demolition to be fully explored before any structure is razed	TC/HDC			**X**
Implementation	The Town shall consider establishment of a procedure to extend historic zoning (Historic Overlay District) to individual significant structures	TC/HDC			**X**
Implementation	The Town should develop a town-wide Historic District Commission to handle issues that effect any and all of South Kingstown's cultural resources. Responsible Party: Town Council, Historic District Commission	TC/HDC	**X**		
Implementation	The Historic District Commission should have the authority to comment on alterations to all buildings designated as historic, making recommendations for preferred treatments.	TC/PB/Plan.Dept./HDC	**X**		
POLICY 5.3	The Town shall continue to protect the integrity of cultural resources, including historic buildings, structures, and landscape features and archeological sites, from adverse impacts of development activities through implementation of the South Kingstown Residential Design Manual and the Zoning Ordinance (Section 600 - Historic Overlay District).				

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Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
Implementation	When cultural resources will be impacted, development or subdivision proposals shall be reviewed in consultation with a professional archaeologist or historic preservation specialist to develop an alternative plan or appropriate mitigative action. The professional archaeologist shall be hired by the Town and funded by the applicant. It is acknowledged that State and/or Federal agencies may require archaeological and historical preservation reviews; the Town will encourage coordination of such agency reviews with local requirements.	Plan.Dept.		**X**	
Implementation	The Town shall use easements to protect open land, including agricultural land and areas along the shoreline, that contribute to the historic context of the Town.	Plan.Dept./ConCom		**X**	
Implementation	The Town shall consider developing, within the limits of state enabling legislation, appropriate ordinances and regulations to help protect features, including field patterns, coast line, stone walls, cemeteries, and signage.	TC/Plan.Dept./PB			**X**
POLICY 5.4	The Town supports the development and the promotion of the economic benefits of preservation.				
Implementation	The Town shall participate in programs and utilize resources from the National Trust's Main Street Center or other available funding sources.	TC/Plan.Dept./TM		**X**	
Implementation	The Town shall encourage residents to qualify for state and federal investment tax credits by restoring historic buildings on the National Register of Historic Places.	Plan.Dept.		**X**	
POLICY 5.5	The Town will encourage the continued use and adaptive reuse of historic buildings.				
Implementation	The Town shall review the Zoning Ordinance to ensure the inclusion of measures that allow for mixed-use of existing industrial and commercial buildings in historic districts.	TC/Plan.Dept./PB		**X**	
POLICY 5.6	The Town supports educating residents, as well as visitors, to the importance of preserving cultural resources and of the intrinsic value of historic buildings and sites in South Kingstown.				
Implementation	The Town shall develop a Town-wide Historic District Commission to handle issues that affect any and all of South Kingstown's cultural resources.	TC/Plan.Dept.	**X**		
Implementation	The Historic District Commission shall continue to develop and make available to historic home owners a how-to booklet of do-it-yourself guidelines for restoration.	Plan.Dept./HDC		**X**	

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Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
Implementation	The Town shall support the Museum of Primitive Art and Culture's ongoing Public Education Program which provides outreach and enrichment units that dovetail 3rd and 5th grade curricula.	TC/HDC			**X**
Implementation	The Town shall support the Museum of Primitive Art and Culture's distribution of guided and self-guided walking and driving tours (The Village of Peace Dale: A Precious Legacy and The Indians and Colonists of South County, Rhode Island: A Driving Tour), as well as the development of future pamphlets that highlight the cultural resources of South Kingstown.	Plan.Dept./HDC/Museum of Primitive Art & Culture			**X**
Implementation	The Town shall support the efforts of local organizations (e.g. the Museum of Primitive Art and Culture) to sponsor monthly evening lecture series on subjects related to South Kingstown's history and historic resources in order to increase awareness among the Town's citizens. In addition to general programs, symposia are held on issues of importance to specific groups, such as small business owners, bankers, and realtors who may not be familiar with the benefits of preservation	Plan.Dept./HDC/Museum of Primitive Art & Culture			**X**
POLICY 5.7	The Town will encourage the preservation of agriculture and its their associated structures and landscapes in order to maintain continuity in the landscape of South Kingstown.				
Implementation	The Town shall continue to promote participation in the Farm Land Preservation Act as a measure to encourage the continued maintenance of the historic landscape of South Kingstown.	Plan.Dept.		**X**	
Implementation	The Town should support efforts to protect South Kingstown's coastal zone through a variety of land use strategies cited in the Natural Resources and Land Use elements of the Comprehensive Plan.				**X**
GOAL 6:	**To preserve the unique identity of the villages of South Kingstown, as well as those cultural features that identify the Town as a whole.**				
POLICY 6.1	The Town will preserve the unique identity of the villages that comprise South Kingstown, as well as those cultural features that identify the Town as a whole.				
Implementation	The South Kingstown Residential Design Manual shall be used to direct development according to the traditional character and patterns of the villages. Development shall be focused in and around the villages, in an effort to maintain the rural nature of outlying areas.			**X**	

Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
SERVICES AND FACILITIES ELEMENT - To provide the Town with basic public services and facilities in a prompt and efficient manner					
GOAL 1:	**To provide high quality municipal services in a cost-effective manner as required to serve an expanding community and to integrate the Town's growth management program with long-range utility plans.**				
POLICY 1.1	To continue to update and to improve the governing structure and procedures of local government.				
POLICY 1.2	The Town will continue to provide a high level of administration functions. The Town will continue to review the adequacy of municipal government administrative services and revise practices to meet these standards on an ongoing basis				
Implementation	The Town shall review the adequacy of municipal government administration services in accordance with internal standards, and in conformance with modern management practice.	TC/TM		**X**	
Implementation	The Town Manager shall continue to submit the Capital Improvement Program annually. This document addresses the current year with five year projections. The intent of the CIP is threefold: to provide a comprehensive community needs statement, to provide the development of a prioritized implementation schedule for meeting the community needs statement, and to provide financial data relative to the community's ability to manage and finance the costs associated with meeting these defined needs.	TC/TM		**X**	
GOAL 2:	**To provide effective wastewater management through a variety of strategies designed to protect public health and the natural environment.**				
POLICY 2.1	The Town supports an adequately sized wastewater treatment plant which operates in full compliance with all State and Federal standards.				
Implementation	The Town shall comprehensively re-evaluate the adequacy of the wastewater treatment facility every five years when its license is renewed. An annual review shall also be undertaken.	PSD		**X**	
Implementation	Local collection system and pump station improvements shall continue to be made in accordance with the Capital Improvement Program recommendations for pump station improvements and WWTF equipment and treatment upgrades.	TC/TM/PSD		**X**	
POLICY 2.2	The Town will address existing problem areas, through an evaluation of a variety of sewage treatment alternatives which are cost effective, environmentally sound, and assure residents' safety.				

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Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
Implementation	This is being done in the Diane Drive sewer extension. Future sewer extensions into other problem areas will follow the recommendations of the Land Use Element.	TC/TM/PSD		X	
Implementation	The Town shall continue to administer the Onsite Wastewater Management Ordinance with ISDS inspection in prioritized districts.	TM/PSD		X	
POLICY 2.3	The Town will integrate wastewater management into water supply decisions.				
Implementation	The Planning Department shall work to coordinate the policies of area water suppliers with wastewater management needs.	TM/Plan.Dept./PSD		X	
POLICY 2.4	The Town will expand the centralized sewage treatment facility in an established time frame, based on improvements in technology and the relative needs and fiscal responsibility of each user group (South Kingstown, Narragansett and URI).				
GOAL 3:	**To integrate the Town's growth management program with long-range utility plans.**				
POLICY 3.1	The Town will promote a long-range planning effort to address the cumulative impacts of development.				
Implementation	This has been included in the Comprehensive Plan (see Land Use Element). The location of potential sewer extensions was considered in developing the land use policy and Land Use Plan Map. To conform with State regulations, the Town zoning and subdivision regulations must be consistent with the Land Use Plan Map.	PB/Plan.Dept.	X		
POLICY 3.2	The Town will address the needs of surrounding communities which may want direct ties or carry-in service with South Kingstown's sewer plant.				
Implementation	This will be addressed upon request of the Town Council.	TM/Plan.Dept./PSD		X	
POLICY 3.3	The Town will provide sewer service primarily to RM, R-10, selected R-20 zones, and other high and medium high-density residential areas. In unsewered areas with severe septic limitations, only low-density development should occur. High-density development should not occur in areas where there is no public sewer and water available at the time of development.				

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Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
Implementation	Proposals to extend sewer service shall only be permitted within the Future Sewer Service Area map defined in this plan. The extension of sewers shall not be a basis for allowing greater density than the base zoning of the area would permit. Proposed sewer service extensions shall be consistent with the goals and regulations of CRMC's Salt Pond Region and Narrow River Special Area Management Plans.	TM/PD/PSD		**X**	
POLICY 3.4	The Town will minimize development along existing or future utility transmission lines, which simply connect high-density areas.				
Implementation	The Town shall revise zoning and subdivision regulations accordingly.	TC/Plan.Dept./PB		**X**	
POLICY 3.5	The Town supports the extension of water services in a manner which is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.				
Implementation	The Town shall evaluate future water extension proposals with regard to the location of existing and proposed water and sewer lines, problem areas, and the overall growth pattern endorsed by the Comprehensive Plan. Proposed extensions of water lines and their source wells shall be consistent with the CRMC's Salt Pond Region and Narrow River Special Area Management Plans	Plan.Dept./PB/PWS			**X**
GOAL 4:	**To manage and to protect existing water resources for present and future residential and nonresidential use in accordance with growth plans for the Town.**				
POLICY 4.1	The Town supports an overall water supply management policy and plan that is integrated with the growth management program and long-range utilities plan for the Town.				
Implementation	Water System Supply Management Plans have been prepared by Kingston Water, United Water, the Town of South Kingstown and URI for each service area. The Town shall continue to work to protect the quality and quantity of water from the Chipuxet Aquifer, a sole-source aquifer.	Plan.Dept./TC/PWS		**X**	
POLICY 4.2	The Town advocates the protection of a safe drinking water supply as a major priority for South Kingstown. The Town is committed to the establishment of programs for aquifer protection and groundwater resource management.				
Implementation	The Town shall continue its Open Space acquisition program to protect groundwater quality through direct purchase of development rights for the most important aquifer recharge areas	Plan.Dept./PWS		**X**	

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Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
Implementation	The Town shall continue with its efforts to develop performance based standards for ISDS to protect drinking water sources	TM/PWS/ConCom		**X**	
POLICY 4.3	The Town supports the conservation of water in its municipal facilities and through its South Shore and Middlebridge water systems.				
Implementation	A program of water conservation will continue to be employed during periods of drought or high systems demand.	PSD/United Water of RI		**X**	
POLICY 4.4	The Town recognizes the need to prioritize water uses (i.e. residential vs. nonresidential).				
Implementation	The Town shall seek legislation on either Town-wide or regional basis to regulate priority of water use, (see discussion in Natural Resources Element).	TC/Plan.Dept./PB/ConCom			**X**
POLICY 4.5	The Town will continue to comply with the Rhode Island Department of Health rules pertaining to public drinking water.				
Implementation	The Town Public Services Department shall continue to conduct an annual evaluation of compliance with standards and a comprehensive five-year evaluation. Any necessary system improvements are addressed in the Town's annual operating budget and the six-year Capital Improvement Program.	TC/TM/PSD		**X**	
POLICY 4.6	The Town supports measures to provide a continual supply of potable water to its residents.				
Implementation	The Town, URI, United Water of Rhode Island and the Kingston Water District, shall implement the requirements presented in the Rhode Island Drought Management Plan, State Guide Plan Element 724, June 2002. For drought planning purposes all of South Kingstown and much of Washington County is considered one drought region. Drought planning needs to consider factors beyond simply providing interconnections between the Town's public water suppliers, this is particularly relevant now that the Town is receiving water via United Water of Rhode Island via the Chipuxet sub-basin.	PSD/United Water of RI/URI/Kingston Water Dist.			**X**
Implementation	The Town shall work with local water suppliers to construct interconnections between water services to assure a continual supply of potable water during low flow droughts and to address emergency spill response.	Plan.Dept./PSD/PWS			**X**

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Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
Implementation	The Town has continued to work with the RI Water Resources Board and both United Water of Rhode Island, the University of Rhode Island and Kingston Water to assure that emergency water supply is available.	DPS/PWS		**X**	

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Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
GOAL 5:	**To integrate water extension decisions in accordance with the Land Use Plan.**				
POLICY 5.1	The Town recognizes the priority of servicing areas already experiencing problems with well water quantity or quality.				
Implementation	The Town shall give priority waterline extension to areas with contamination of well water. Drinking water contamination caused by constituents for which there are federal standards also will be given priority consideration. Proposed extensions of water lines and their source wells shall be consistent with the CRMC's Salt Pond Region and Narrow River Special Area Management Plans.	TC/PSD/PWS		**X**	
GOAL 6:	**To maintain a solid waste management strategy which focuses on waste reduction, litter control and recycling, and waste management programs which are cost-effective and self-sufficient to the greatest extent possible.**				
POLICY 6.1	The Town recognizes the need for community recycling.				
Implementation	The Town shall continue its community recycling program through the "bag and tag" program at the Rose Hill Transfer Station.	TM/PSD		**X**	
POLICY 6.2	The Town shall continue to participate in the closure of landfills to reduce potential contamination.				
Implementation	The EPA, RIDEM, and the Towns of South Kingstown and Narragansett have signed a Consent Decree (January 3, 2003) that requires that the towns to partially reimburse EPA and the state for costs already incurred in the cleanup of contamination at the Rose Hill Landfill. It also requires that the towns participate in the funding of RIDEM's remedial design, remedial action, and operation and maintenance costs.	TC/TM		**X**	
Implementation	Identified problems at the West Kingston Town Dump should be investigated to determine the scope and severity of contamination, and identify corrective measures that may be undertaken. Based upon this review and investigation the Town shall finalize and implement remediation and closure of the site.	TC/TM/DPS	**X**		
GOAL 7:	**To maintain an effective public works program which recognizes the importance of the maintenance and construction of safe and efficient roads, bridges, sidewalks, storm drains, and parks to serve its residents.**				
POLICY 7.1	The Town will continue its long-range improvement programs for improvements to roads, bridges, sidewalks, and storm drains in conformance with the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan.				

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Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
Implementation	Programs are prioritized through the Capital Improvement Program and the South Kingstown Transportation Improvement Plan, and funded by the Town or through the State Transportation Improvement Plan.	TC/TM/PSD		**X**	
POLICY 7.2	The Town supports an adequately staffed and equipped Public Services Department.				
Implementation	The Town shall continue to evaluate the Department of Public Services staffing and equipment needs required to accomplish proposed work programs outlined in the Capital Improvement Plan.	PSD/TM		**X**	
GOAL 8:	**To develop and to maintain a long-range program of effective stormwater management designed to protect its residents from flooding, to control erosion and sedimentation, and to maintain both surface and groundwater quality and quantity.**				
POLICY 8.1	The Town supports implementation of the RIPDES Phase II Stormwater Management program.				
Implementation	The Town shall comply with RIDEM's Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES) Phase II requirements for stormwater management in municipal separate storm sewer systems. This program is intended to improve the quality of receiving waters by reducing the quantity of pollutants discharged during storm events. RIPDES Phase II Stormwater regulations also require the inventory of existing municipal stormwater facilities.	PSD/TM		**X**	
POLICY 8.2	The Town will locate and inventory existing municipal stormwater facilities and will work toward correcting problems for existing drainage in a manner which considers the surrounding drainage patterns.				
Implementation	The current six-year Capital Improvement Program identifies, funds and schedules various drainage improvement projects within the Town. These projects shall continue to be addressed through the Capital Improvement Program process.	DPS/PD		**X**	
GOAL 9:	**To continue the Town's support of a professional police force, dedicated to upholding the law, assuring the safety and best welfare of the Town's residents and respecting the rights of all citizens. The Town recognizes that provision of adequate police facilities is vital to the health and safety of its citizens.**				
POLICY 9.1	The Town supports maintaining an appropriate level of service through the professional law enforcement staff.				

Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
Implementation	The Police Department shall continue to conduct an annual analysis of existing and future needs, in coordination with the writing of the Town Budget and Capital Improvement Program. A more comprehensive analysis shall be performed every five years. Annual measurements which will help assess performance shall include such items as number and experience with service calls, crime rate and type, and accident reports. Results of this analysis shall be checked against personnel and equipment. The Town staff will continue to assess emergency medical services program needs to ensure that appropriate service levels are met.	PD/TM		**X**	
POLICY 9.2	The Town will continue to assess the adequacy of police facilities and equipment, including the need to increase patrols off-road.				
Implementation	The most important equipment needs have been met with construction of the new public safety building. Additional equipment purchases will be made in conformance with the Town's 6-year Capital Improvement Plan.	TC/TM/PD		**X**	
Implementation	The Town shall consider construction of a separate storage building for evidence processing and evidence storage. This building should be secure, have sophisticated air handling, and should include a garage space with lift.	TC/TM/PD		**X**	
POLICY 9.3	The Town will maintain a level of police performance which meets the Police Chief's Association standards.				
Implementation	Such a certification program has been planned and is being considered for adoption by the State. Until the State implements such a program, the South Kingstown Police Department will follow its present internal evaluation process. The Police Department has implemented several of the recommendations made during a recent audit conducted by the RI Interlocal Trust.	PD/TM			**X**
POLICY 9.4	The Town will maintain a police presence in the public schools, to strengthen relationships between the police department, school staff, and students, and to enforce security, as necessary.				
Implementation	The Police Department shall continue the “Community Works Program” and has considered negotiations with the superintendent of school to create a “School Resource Officer.” The Police Department shall investigate flexible funding sources which would benefit the entire department’s long-range policing strategies.	TM/PD			**X**
GOAL 10:	**To continue to support the concept of a volunteer fire department and to assist the fire districts in their efforts to provide protective services.**				

Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
POLICY 10.1	In response to a recent State mandate requiring fire fighting training, the Town will encourage participation in the required training programs. Such incentives are needed to maintain an adequate volunteer force.				
Implementation	The Town shall develop incentives to encourage more people to become volunteers. Responsible Party: Town Manager's Office, Fire Districts	TM/FD		**X**	
POLICY 10.2	The Town's fire districts shall meet the equipment standards promulgated under State law.				
Implementation	The fire districts shall continue efforts to maintain adequate equipment.	TM/FD		**X**	
POLICY 10.3	The Town supports the efforts of the fire districts to improve their ISO ratings and general level of operation.				
Implementation	The "Improvements Statements" written for the Town's fire districts by the Insurance Services Office shall be reviewed by the Town's fire chiefs to determine if there are cost-effective ways to improve the fire department's ratings, which are based on fire suppression capabilities. These reports shall be included in their long-term plans.	TM/FD			**X**
Implementation	The Town shall evaluate the fire departments' compliance with ISO standards annually, to coincide with the annual budgets. A more comprehensive evaluation shall occur every five years. The Town will consider preparing a 10-year implementation plan, as that is the time interval for ISO evaluation and classification.	TM/FD			**X**
Implementation	The fire districts shall use the compliance standards to develop to its own internal evaluation criteria, to be used annually and more comprehensively every five years, to assess existing and future needs.	TM/FD		**X**	
GOAL 11:	**To provide Town residents with the opportunity for a quality education, and superior school facilities.**				
POLICY 11.1	The high quality of South Kingstown's education program should be maintained and continually improved.				
Implementation	New programs shall be considered and existing quality shall be maintained.	School Dept./School Comm.		**X**	
Implementation	The Town shall continue to comply with the Board of Regents standards for education facility construction approval and funding. The School Department shall conduct more comprehensive five-year evaluations increments of the Rhode Island Basic Education Program.	School Dept./School Comm.		**X**	

Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
POLICY 11.2	The Town supports development of school facilities to keep pace with expansion of school population and with the defined educational programs of the school system.				
Implementation	The Town shall address school facility needs through the six-year plans included in the annual Capital Improvement Program.	School Dept./School Comm./TC/TM		**X**	
GOAL 12:	**To maintain a Town system of public libraries to meet the diverse needs of our citizens through expanded and improved library services and facilities.**				
POLICY 12.1	To meet the community needs for library services, the Town will expand and renovate library facilities and parking areas.				
Implementation	Expansion of public service and non-public service areas of the main library in Peace Dale is required to meet the needs of the town-wide system (including the needs of the two branch libraries which cannot be expanded due to property boundary, historic, and structural constraints). A larger youth services room, redesign of the circulation area, reference desk expansion to accommodate two librarians, increased book stack capacity, increased space for public access computers, quiet study rooms and a new public meeting room with a larger seating capacity represent unmet system needs.	TC/TM/Library Board of Trustees			**X**
Implementation	The Library Board recognizes that increased parking at Peace Dale is essential to meet the future program needs of the library.	TC/TM/Library Board of Trustees	**X**		
POLICY 12.2	The Town supports compliance with all State requirements and standards including the Office of Library & Information Service's Minimum Standard for Rhode Island Public Libraries, adopted by the Library Board of Rhode Island in 2000.				
Implementation	The Town Library System shall continue to comply with the Office of Library & Information Service standards in order to continue to receive State funding. In addition, the Library shall continue its present course of annually assessing needs according to internal standards of performance based on actual usage. This annual assessment shall continue to coordinate with assessments for funding through the Town's operating and capital budgets, and grants requirements. Additionally, a more comprehensive review is needed every five years, especially regarding large-scale facility improvements.	TM/Library Board of Trustees		**X**	
GOAL 13:	**To provide the citizens of the Town with a wide range of effective human service programs and facilities, in cooperation with other public, private and non-profit agencies and groups.**				

Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
POLICY 13.1	The Town shall continue to coordinate and centralize senior citizen programs and facilities to offer community-based, rather than institutional, services.				
Implementation	The Town should continue to be a facilitator in coordinating this effort. The Senior Services Center Program's mission is to provide a focal point where adults can access services and programs designed to support their independence, enrich their quality of life and promote optimal aging. Completion of "The Center" in 2000 enabled consolidation of many senior services including the Adult Day Services Program (not on site), the Senior Nutrition Program, Senior Transportation Program, and the Senior Services Center. Continued operation and expansion of services, including advocacy and technical assistance, particularly through Hospital Elder Liaison Program with South County Hospital, Seniors Helping Other, Inc., and other ongoing programs. The Department's goal is to bring various senior service groups and organizations together to coordinate their actives and integrate their work.	TC/TM/Director of Senior Services		**X**	
GOAL 14:	**The South Kingstown Parks and Recreation Department will serve the community by providing enriching recreation experiences and quality facilities.**				
POLICY 14.1	The Parks and Recreation Department will address the need for alternative transportation for programs.				
Implementation	The Parks and Recreation Department will investigate opportunities to reduce reliance on private transportation through the possible purchase of a bus for parks and recreation activities or attempting to secure additional use of Senior Services buses.	TM/Parks & Rec. Dept.			**X**
POLICY 14.2	The Town of South Kingstown will pursue the development of Greenways listed in the Town's Greenways Master Plan.				
Implementation	The Town will pursue development of the following corridors presented in the June, 2002 Greenways Master Plan: A. Development of the Peace Dale Village Bike Path; B. Expansion of the South County Bike Path to include a connection to the University of Rhode Island and Peace Dale Village Bike Path; C. Expansion of the DuVal Trail; D. Development of the Saugatucket River trail system; and E. Development of the South Shore Beach Trail.	TM/Plan. Park&Rec. Dept./ConCom/ SK Land Trust/Friends of South County Bike Path/Saugatucket River Trail System			**X**
POLICY 14.3	The Parks and Recreation Department will develop additional indoor recreation space for community activities.				

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Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
Implementation	The Town's parks and recreation standards indicate the Town lacks on indoor gymnasium to meet the expanded needs of the community. The Parks and Recreation Department completed an indoor facility study in the fall of 2003 and recommends the construction of a community gymnasium at Curtis Corner Middle School. The gym will be used for both school and municipal programs. The community gymnasium is included in the Town's Capital Improvement Budget The Parks and Recreation Department will expand the use of the Peace Dale Office Building for providing community recreation services. The expanded facilities will include and art studio, additional art performance space, and general programming areas.			**X**	
POLICY 14.4	The Town will assess the potential construction of parks and recreation facilities on the Superfund former landfill sites at the Rose Hill Transfer Station. The facilities may include a junior golf training center, dog-park, nature trails and multi-purpose fields.	TM/Parks & Rec. Dept.			
POLICY 14.5	The Parks and Recreation Department will improve the accessibility of the Peace Dale Office Building.				
Implementation	The Town should construct a full-service elevator attached to the rear of the building, to be funded by Peace Dale Office Building undesignated fund.	TM/Parks & Rec. Dept.			**X**
POLICY 14.6	The Parks and Recreation Department will complete improvements to the Neighborhood Guild that will provide additional programming and office space.				
Implementation	The Parks and Recreation Department completed an indoor facility study in the fall of 2003 and determined the Neighborhood Guild's fitness room and Recreation Division offices should be expanded. The projects are included in the Department's strategic plan.	TM/Parks & Rec. Dept.		**X**	
POLICY 14.7	The Town will assess the potential of developing a golf driving range at the Rose Hill Transfer Station.				
Implementation	The Town will include the development of the driving range in the closure plans for the transfer station. The driving range may also serve as the location of the Parks and Recreation Department's golf school.	TM/PSD/Park & Rec. Dept.			**X**

Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
POLICY 14.8	The Parks and Recreation Department will significantly expand youth and teen programming efforts. The Parks and Recreation Department will expand efforts to provide youth and teens positive alternatives for their free time, concentrating on providing activities between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on weekdays and on Friday and Saturday nights.	TM/Parks & Rec. Dept./Housing & Police/SK Partnership for Prevention/South County YMCA			
POLICY 14.9	The Parks and Recreation Department will expand park maintenance staff.				
Implementation	The Parks Division currently maintains 28 Town sites consisting of over 400 acres, 52 gardens, 16 sports fields, 16 asphalt-play areas, 11 playgrounds, 7 miles of trails, street hockey facility, skate park, and 5 comfort stations. Maintenance responsibilities will significantly expand with the completion of Green Hill Park, Broad Rock Playfields, Saugatucket River Walkway, and Phase II of the South County Bike Path. To address the maintenance of these new facilities, the 2003-04 operations budget includes funding to outsource a majority of non-park facilities. This outsourcing will provide Town maintenance crews with additional capacity to absorb the new facilities.	TM/Parks & Rec. Dept.			**X**
GOAL 15:	**To maintain an effective emergency management response program that recognizes the importance of providing protection to citizens and property through public education, municipal preparedness plans and adequate training of key personnel.**				
POLICY 15.1	The Town supports an expanded public awareness of potential emergency situations and appropriate citizen response.				
Implementation	The Police Department maintains an ongoing emergency management response program with RIEMA and FEMA. As issues relating to Homeland Security arise, the Town shall respond in accordance with Federal and State protocols. Planning and training for emergency response shall include the Union and Kingston Fire Districts and Department of Public Service's Highway and Engineering Divisions.	Plan. Dept./PD		**X**	
POLICY 15.2	The Town will ensure that police officers and other key emergency management personnel receive proper training.				
Implementation	The Town will continue to offer both on- and off-site training and education to assure that staff is proficient in the latest programs, protocol, techniques, and methods.	TM/PD		**X**	
POLICY 15.3	Institute appropriate measures to reduce potential storm damage caused by wind blown trees.				

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Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
Implementation	The Town will re-examine the existing tree trimming program to redirect efforts towards preventative maintenance in areas more likely to suffer storm damage, particularly coastal areas.	Plan.Dept./TM/PD			**X**
POLICY 15.4	Encourage development of programs and policies that foster preventative measures that mitigate potential natural disaster damage.				
Implementation	The Town will examine its present guidelines and regulations to see where possible measures can be instituted and encouraged that reduce storm damage potential.	Plan.Dept.		**X**	

Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION ELEMENT - To encourage the provision of recreational services and facilities and the preservation of open spaces and natural habitats in order to enhance the physical and mental well-being of the Town's citizens					
GOAL 1:	**To acquire land for open space and conservation to maintain the rural character of the community.**				
POLICY 1.1	The Town shall continue to preserve land which is primarily undeveloped and which consists of open, agricultural, or littoral property, including existing and future well fields and aquifer recharge areas, fresh and saltwater marshes and adjoining uplands, barrier beaches, wildlife habitats, land providing access to or views of the ocean, harbors and ponds, land for unpaved bicycling, bridge and hiking paths and for future passive recreational use, and land for agricultural use.				
Implementation	The Town shall continue to implement the Open Space Project Funding Policy.	TC/TM/Plan.Dept.		**X**	
Implementation	The Town will continue to utilize A Guide for Protecting Open Space in South Kingstown prepared by the Community Partnership program of the South Kingstown Land Trust in evaluating potential land acquisitions or development rights purchases.	TC/TM/Plan.Dept.		**X**	
Implementation	The Town shall participate in acquisition of land in fee simple or in conservation and preservation restrictions on real property.	TC/TM/Plan.Dept.		**X**	
Implementation	The Town shall continue to utilize funds generated through the Fair Share Development Fee (collected at the time a building permit is issued for new residential construction and assessed as outlined in the annual Capital Improvement Plan), for the purchase and/or envelopment of open space, conservation, park and recreational land.	TC/TM/Plan.Dept.		**X**	
Implementation	The Town shall create a formal definition of “open space,” to distinguish between sub categories such as forestland, agriculture, passive recreation areas, active recreation areas, mandated buffer zones in subdivisions, and private green areas.	TC/TM/Plan.Dept.	**X**		

Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
Implementation	The Town shall document the economic impact of open space acquisition by indicating the number of housing units prevented, how many students were avoided in the public school system, and what was the lost tax revenue (both prior to acquisition and if residentially developed). The economic assessment shall include the cost of annual maintenance of the property and include a plan to maintain the property as open space.	TC/TM/Plan.Dept.		X	
Implementation	The Town shall consider connectivity of open space and greenway projects in its criteria for acquisition.	TC/TM/Plan.Dept.		X	
Implementation	The Town shall actively coordinate land acquisition and development with such private, nonprofit organizations as the R.I. Audubon Society, the Nature Conservancy, and the South Kingstown and Narrow River Land trusts as well as with Public agencies which actively are pursuing similar goals. The Town will encourage development or protection of community spaces on private, State and Federal properties which will enhance leisure experiences for local and non-local residents without detracting from the primary goals of the organizations.	TC/TM/Plan.Dept.		X	
Implementation	The Town shall continue to secure state and federal funding for open space acquisition.	TC/TM/Plan.Dept.		X	
POLICY 1.2	The Town supports preservation of open space within the Central Core, recognizing that smaller parcels are valuable to preserve habitat, and to improve the quality of life of village residents.				
Implementation	The Town shall amend the Open Space Project Funding Policy to include smaller parcels in its criteria.	TC/TM/Plan.Dept.		X	
POLICY 1.3	The Town shall investigate means to provide open space buffers between current commercial and residential uses.				
GOAL 2:	**To acquire land for expanding active and passive recreational services based upon the current needs assessment.**				
POLICY 2.1	The Town shall provide active and passive recreational services to meet town, state and federal requirements.				
Implementation	The Town shall pursue available grant funding through such State and Federal sources as the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM), the Rhode Island Water Resources Board, and the Federal Highway Administration.	TC/TM/Parks & Rec Dept.		X	

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Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
GOAL 3:	**To assure public access to publicly –owned and controlled open space and to all important public natural and cultural resources for all citizens and will protect all current and historic rights-of-way which assure this access.**				
POLICY 3.1	The Town shall protect all protect all current and historic rights of way to natural and cultural resources.				
Implementation	The Town shall work with the Coastal Resources Management Council to identify and protect rights of way to coastal areas.	TM/PSD/Plan.Dept.		**X**	
Implementation	In cooperation with the CRMC the Town shall institute a program to identify rights of way to the shoreline.	TM/PSD/Plan.Dept.		**X**	
Implementation	The Town shall work to educate adjacent landowners about public access to the shore via paper streets and other deeded access ways in proximity to their properties.	TC/TM/Parks & Rec Dept./PD		**X**	
GOAL 4:	**To protect all beach areas for pedestrian-based recreation, to preserve the open-space character of the shorefront, and to protect the fragile ecology of the dunes.**				
POLICY 4.1	The Town shall continue to manage beaches under its jurisdiction for the benefit of the community.				
Implementation	The Town shall place controls or other obstacles to motor vehicular traffic along the access-ways of ocean beaches which are under Town control. In the case of CRMC designated right of ways no obstructions of any kind shall be permitted. In addition, the Town will work with the CRMC to facilitate ROW access and use by considering expanded public parking where such use can be permitted by the CRMC.	DPS/Parks & Rec. Dept.			**X**

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Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
POLICY 4.2	The Town shall support public access and preservation of natural habitat for beaches not under its jurisdiction.				
Implementation	The Town shall encourage open access to ocean beaches within the Town by all citizens and will discourage private enclaves and the erection and/or replacement of fences and barriers.	Plan.Dept./TM/PD			**X**
Implementation	The Town shall continue to press the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to find ways to provide public access and enjoyment of Moonstone Beach, in accordance with provisions of the State Constitution, and to ensure equal protection for the natural habitat.	TM		**X**	
GOAL 5:	**To create a system of greenways.**				
POLICY 5.1	The Town shall preserve the following greenways which follow natural geologic or geographic features: -Saugatucket River - Marina Park - Upper Salt Pond. Matunuck Hills kettle pond/moraine area - Chipuxet River corridor (Hundred Acre Pond - Thirty Acre Pond -Great Swamp -Worden Pond) - Queens River corridor - Narrow River watershed in coordination with similar greenway areas in Narragansett and North Kingstown - South Shore Area as identified in the South Shore Management Plan				
POLICY 5.2	The Town shall continue to assure that identified greenways will be protected from the adverse effects of future growth and development through the zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations, land use policies and open space acquisition.	PB/Plan.Dept.			
POLICY 5.3	The Town shall continue to implement its Greenways Master Plan. The Town Council reviewed the plan in June, 2002 and requested that proposals for the following greenways be included in the updated Comprehensive Plan: -Development of the Peace Dale Village Bike Path -Expansion of the South County Bike Path to include a connection to the University of Rhode Island and Peace Dale Village Bike Path - Expansion of the DuVal Trail -Development of the Saugatucket River trail system -Development of the South Shore Beach Trail.	TC/PB/Plan.Dept.			
GOAL 6:	**To meet changing recreation needs of the community in accordance with Town, state and federal standards.**				

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Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
POLICY 6.1	The Town will use existing vacant and/or underutilized Town-owned lands to meet recreation and open space needs.	TM/PD/Parks & Rec. Dept.			
POLICY 6.2	The Town shall continue to use school properties to provide recreation space within the limits of safety, maintenance, security and contractual issues.				
Implementation	The School and Parks and Recreation Departments shall coordinate activities, especially related to construction of new school facilities, so that they may be designed to maximize land utilization and municipal financial resources for maximum recreational benefit to the community.	Park & Rec. Dept./School Dept.			**X**
POLICY 6.3	The Town shall assess a fee on new residential development for the purchase and development of new municipal parkland.				
Implementation	The Town shall continue its Fair Share Development Fee program as revised annually based upon the analysis contained in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP).	TM/ Parks & Rec. Dept./Plan.Dept.		**X**	
POLICY 6.4	The Parks and Recreation Department will develop additional indoor recreation space for community activities.				
Implementation	In cooperation with the School Department, the Town will develop a community facility that will include a gymnasium and youth and teen programming areas.				**X**
Implementation	Research the establishment of additional indoor ice facilities in South Kingstown.	Park & Rec. Dept./School Dept.			**X**
POLICY 6.5	The Parks and Recreation Department will coordinate the development of a northeast community park.				
Implementation	To service the northeast area of South Kingstown, the Town will investigate the development of community park facilities within the reclaimed areas at the Rose Hill Transfer Station.	TC/TM/ Parks & Rec. Dept./DPS			**X**
POLICY 6.6	The Parks and Recreation Department shall significantly expand children in need and teen programming efforts.				
Implementation	The Parks and Recreation Department will expand efforts to provide children in need and teens positive alternatives for their free time, concentrating on providing activities between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on weekdays and on Friday and Saturday nights.	TC/TM/Parks&Rec. Dept./Housing Auth./PD/SK Partnership Prevention/SC YMCA/& others		**X**	
GOAL 7:	**To maintain active recreation areas and other properties under the Parks and Recreation Department jurisdiction.**				

Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
POLICY 7.1	The Town shall continue to provide an active maintenance and rehabilitation program and schedule to maintain and to upgrade existing sites and facilities to ensure safe and high quality experience. The Parks and Recreation Department currently maintains 28 Town sites consisting of over 400 acres, 52 gardens, 16 sports fields, 16 asphalt-play areas, 11 playgrounds, 7 miles of trails, street hockey facility, skate park, and 5 comfort stations. Over the next three years, maintenance responsibilities will significantly expand with the completion of Green Hill Park, Broad Rock Playfields, Saugatucket River Walkway, and Phase II of the South County Bike Path.				
Implementation	The Town shall continue to schedule maintenance and rehabilitation programs in the annual Capital Improvement Program.	TM/Rec. Dept./Plan. Dept.		**X**	
Implementation	The Town shall outsource a majority of non-park facilities as outlined in the Capital Improvement Program. This outsourcing will provide Town maintenance crews with additional capacity to absorb the new facilities.	TM/Rec. Dept./Plan. Dept.			**X**
Implementation	The Town shall pursue state, federal and private funding opportunities for maintenance.	TM/Rec. Dept./Plan. Dept.		**X**	
POLICY 7.2	The Town shall improve recreational facilities to meet current and projected needs.				
Implementation	The Town shall improve the accessibility of the Town-owned Peace Dale Office Building. A full-service elevator should be constructed to the rear of the building to assure ADA-accessibility to Parks and Recreation Department classes scheduled on the third floor of the building.	TM/Rec. Dept.			**X**
Implementation	The Town shall complete improvements to the Neighborhood Guild to provide additional programming and office space. The Recreation Commission will include the expansion of the Neighborhood Guild within the indoor facility study that will be developed in the fall, 2003. In addition to possible expansion, all Neighborhood Guild windows, and Village Green tennis courts and lights need to be replaced.	TC/TM/Rec. Dept.			**X**
GOAL 8:	**To provide public awareness of recreation programs and to provide citizen input on recreation policy.**				
POLICY 8.1	The Town believes that public awareness is a key factor in implementing many of the policies and planning techniques outlined in these policies. Consequently, the Town will continue to sponsor public workshops or seminars to help inform its citizenry and thereby build consensus on implementation actions.	Park & Rec. Dept.			

Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
POLICY 8.2	The Town will provide citizen input on recreation policy.				
Implementation	The Town Council will appoint, where appropriate, special committees from neighborhood groups or special user groups to assist in the preparation of development plans for proposed park and recreation facilities.	TC/Plan.Dept./Park & Rec. Dept.			**X**

Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
CIRCULATION ELEMENT - To integrate safe transportation modes in the Town without disrupting the aesthetic, environmental and cultural values of the community					
GOAL 1:	**To encourage multimodal transportation opportunities.**				
POLICY 1.1	The Town will make every effort to encourage public transit use as an alternative to the single-occupant automobile as a means of transportation.				
Implementation	The Town shall encourage public transportation usage including RIPTA bus ridership with emphasis on adherence to schedules.	Plan.Dept.		**X**	
Implementation	The Town shall encourage use of improved RIPTA service by students and staff between University of Rhode Island and Wakefield shopping opportunities.	Plan.Dept.		**X**	
Implementation	The Town shall encourage RIPTA to provide FLEX or regularly scheduled service to social service and mental health offices in South Kingstown, Charlestown, and Narragansett. This is especially important for local residents who are transit dependent.	Plan.Dept.			**X**
Implementation	The Town, in cooperation with RIDOT and RIDEM, shall encourage the use of shuttle buses to the beach areas during summer months in an effort to reduce traffic congestion on Route 1.	TM/Plan.Dept.			**X**
Implementation	The Town shall consider the potential for trolley service in Wakefield as an economic development incentive as part of downtown revitalization. RIPTA should be encouraged to provide appropriately designed bus shelters at popular bus stops.	TM/Plan.Dept.			**X**
Implementation	The Town should encourage RIPTA to expand routes where possible to include affordable housing locations noted in Appendix Four, Table Eleven. This would be a regular service in addition to areas covered by RIPTA's 210 Flex Service and the RITE CARE/RITE Share Service.			**X**	
POLICY 1.2	The Town shall continue to advocate for commuter rail service to Kingston Station to augment AMTRAK service.				
Implementation	The Town shall routinely encourage RIDOT to investigate more frequent stops at Kingston Station for use by commuters to Boston, Providence and Quonset/Davisville. The Town shall review use of MBTA commuter rail service at Wickford Junction (once operational) by Town residents and assist RIDOT is assessing the demand for possible extension of the South County Commuter Rail service to Kingston.	TM/Plan.Dept.			**X**

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Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
Implementation	The Town shall solicit the assistance of the Statewide Planning Program in providing assistance for zoning changes for Transit Oriented Development at Kingston Station.	TM/Plan.Dept.			**X**
Implementation	The Town shall work with RIDOT to determine the potential demand for commuter rail service to New London CT.	Plan.Dept./DPS			**X**
POLICY 1.3	The Town shall facilitate pedestrian improvements throughout town to encourage walking as a multimodal option to the single occupant vehicle.				
Implementation	The Town shall continue to maintain existing sidewalks and to construct new sidewalks where needed. The Town shall encourage construction of sidewalks on collector type roads and within a 1/2-mile radius of schools and to service locations with a high concentration of senior citizen residency. The Town shall encourage the connection of sidewalks and/or bicycle paths within and between new subdivisions. New sidewalk construction shall include provisions for wheelchair ramp access in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Additional provisions should be taken to ensure that sidewalks are kept clean and free of snow, ice and other hazards.	Plan.Dept./PD/DPS		**X**	
Implementation	The Town shall establish well-defined crosswalk pavement markings and enforce regulations for motorists to STOP for pedestrians in crosswalks.	DPS/PD		**X**	
Implementation	The Town shall advocate for safe, human-scaled pedestrian connections between businesses on Old Tower Road and Kingstown Road. These connections should be attractively landscaped and properly maintained.	TM/PD			**X**
Implementation	In accordance with the "Town of South Kingstown's New Sidewalk Policy" (adopted 9/24/01) the Town shall continue to implement sidewalk construction and improvements through the Capital Improvement Plan. To improve safety, sidewalks should be considered on Route 108 from Curtis Corner north to Route 138.	PD/DPS/RIDOT		**X**	
POLICY 1.4	The Town shall encourage bicycle use as a multimodal transportation alternative				
Implementation	The Town shall encourage the use of bicycles and, where feasible, may request that RIDOT add bicycle lanes on all new or upgraded State roads. Where feasible, bicycle lanes will be added to existing Town-owned collector roads.	TM/Plan.Dept./DPS			**X**
Implementation	A network of bicycle and footpaths shall be developed to encourage alternative transportation modes in the central areas of Town.	Plan.Dept./TM			**X**

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Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
Implementation	The Town shall work to assure that bike paths are continuous to avoid piecemeal, segmented construction with potentially dangerous on-road sections.	DPS/Plan.Dept.			**X**
Implementation	The Town shall continue to implement the recommendations of the 2001 South Kingstown Greenways Master Plan through the Capital Improvement Program.	TC/TM/DPS/Plan.Dept.			**X**
POLICY 1.5	The Town shall continue to implement improvements on municipally owned roadways and bridges to improve safety and capacity.				
Implementation	The Town shall continue to assess its transportation infrastructure needs through its transportation improvement program	TC/TM/DPS/PD		**X**	
Implementation	The Town shall continue to implement the recommendations of the South Kingstown Transportation Improvement Program through the Capital Improvement Program.	TC/TM/DPS		**X**	
Implementation	The Town shall implement traffic calming strategies to improve safety and reduce through traffic speed where warranted.	TC/TM/DPS/Plan.Dept./PD			**X**
GOAL 2:	**To assure that circulation improvements protect the quality of life in the community.**				
POLICY 2.1	The Town's policy will be to periodically review its Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations to ensure that the circulation goals and policies are reflected.				
Implementation	The Town has identified an excess number of required parking spaces especially for commercial businesses over 1500 square feet of gross leasable area. Therefore, the Town shall consider amending its Zoning Ordinance to decrease the parking requirements to prevent over-paving.	TC/Plan.Dept./PB		**X**	
Implementation	The Town shall amend its Zoning Ordinance to provide for shared parking areas and to permit parking on adjacent or nearby land.	TC/Plan.Dept./PB			**X**
Implementation	The Town shall establish flexible standards for roadway/driveway construction, including widths and type of material, in an effort to minimize the extent of impervious surfaces, reduce construction costs and encourage energy conservation.	Plan.Dept./PB/PDPS			**X**
Implementation	The Town shall review the need to establish a maximum length of road with a cul-de-sac.	Plan.Dept./PB/DPS			**X**
POLICY 2.2	The Town will encourage an energy-efficient pattern of development which avoids urban sprawl and scattered type of land development. The Town endorses a Land Use Plan having a concentration of population and services in a central core area.				

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Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
Implementation	The Town shall pursue peripheral development outside of the Wakefield - Peace Dale -Kingston core which discourages major population growth.	TC/Plan.Dept./PB		**X**	
POLICY 2.3	The Town of South Kingstown recognizes the importance of proper street lighting for public safety.				
Implementation	The Traffic and Transportation Review Committee will review proposals to upgrade areas with inadequate and/or nonexistent street lighting based upon the following criteria, and street lighting in other areas will be discouraged: Locations with a relatively high accident rate; Locations with a relatively high crime rate; Locations with a concentration of senior citizens or handicapped residents such as elderly housing projects or nursing homes; and, Areas of special or unusual character, (e.g. church or school).			**X**	
Implementation	The Town shall require that new or upgraded street lighting and lighting for parking lots and other private development be shielded downward to minimize glare in the night sky.			**X**	
POLICY 2.4	The Town supports minimizing the use of oil and salts on roads especially in environmentally sensitive areas except where essential for public safety.				
Implementation	The Town shall work with RIDOT to reduce the amount of salt and oil added to the roads. The Town will also explore the use of alternative products for deicing roadways during the winter months.	Plan.Dept.			**X**
POLILCY 2.5	The Town will promote the highest aesthetic standards for roadway design and visual quality along major roads.				
Implementation	The Town shall seek designation of portions of U.S. Route 1 as Scenic Highways, in accordance with the State Act.	TC/Plan.Dept.		**X**	
Implementation	The Town shall promote the adoption of a Highway Overlay District in its Zoning Ordinance in order to control, among other things, roadside aesthetics.	TC/Plan.Dept./PB			**X**
Implementation	The Town shall promote the phasing out of existing billboards along all roadways in the Town, with maximum application of the legal powers it may have to do so.	TC/Plan.Dept./PB			**X**
Implementation	The Town shall continue to prohibit the construction of new billboards throughout the Town.	TC/Plan.Dept.	**X**		
Implementation	The Town shall continue it's street tree planting program where appropriate and shall retain existing significant trees when constructing new roadways and sidewalks.	Plan.Dept./ConCom		**X**	

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Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
Implementation	The Town shall consider the option of providing underground utilities where feasible on all new or reconstructed State or local streets or highways.	Plan.Dept./Public Utilities Dept.			**X**
GOAL 3:	**To work with state and federal agencies to improve safety and accessibility for residents, tourists, and students.**				
POLICY 3.1	The Town will continue to improve its policy of coordination with RIDOT on state transportation projects, by maintaining contact with RIDOT during all phases of planning, design and construction. The Town will strongly encourage RIDOT to utilize flexible road design standards that provide an appropriate fit to the community.				
Implementation	The Town will insist on its rights of equal partnership with the State authorities	TC/Plan.Dept./PB/DPS		**X**	
POLICY 3.2	The Town shall continue to solicit state assistance for transportation improvements through Statewide Planning Program's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).				
Implementation	The Town will work with state agencies including RIDOT and RIDEM for funding for enhancement projects, bicycle path and greenway projects, roadway upgrade projects, and other transportation improvements in town.	TC/DPS/Plan.Dept.		**X**	
POLICY 3.3	The Town shall require that the University of Rhode Island implement traffic reduction programs and traffic management practices to mitigate traffic congestions on local roads.				
Implementation	The Town will work with the various departments of the University of Rhode Island to assure that traffic management for all events, including those at the Ryan Center, are adequately planned and implemented to minimize traffic disruption to the community.	TM/DPS/Plan.Dept.		**X**	
GOAL 4:	**To utilize multimodal circulation improvements as an economic development incentive.**				
POLICY 4.1	The Town endorses the proposed improvements to Main Street with particular emphasis on upgraded street amenities as outlined in the Economic Development Element.				
Implementation	The Town shall maintain a dialogue with RIDOT through all phases of road construction.	Plan.Dept./TM		**X**	
Implementation	The Town shall review all phases of RIDOT plans, solicit comments from the public, and submit formal comments to the State.	TC/TM/Plan.Dept.		**X**	

Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
POLICY 4.2	The Town will promote the use of the Town parking lot off Main Street in Wakefield through physical improvements to the facility and by providing better signage and amenities.				

Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND ELEMENT					
Overall Goal:	**The Town recognizes the historical, cultural and economic importance of the University of Rhode Island to the community as a whole and is committed to working with the University in partnership to maintain and strengthen this relationship for the betterment of the Town and the University.**				
POLICY 1.1	The Town will maintain effective and ongoing communications with the University by continuing to participate in the URI Master Plan Review Team process.	TC/TM/Plan.Dept.			
POLICY 1.2	The Town will maintain an ongoing dialogue with the University on transportation planning, traffic management, traffic calming and infrastructure related issues, particularly in relation to the Rhode Island Department of Administration, Division of Planning's Transportation Improvement Program.	TC/TM/Plan.Dept./PB/DPS/TTRC/ RIDOT/URI			
POLICY 1.3	The Town supports and strongly encourages University efforts and programs to utilize and promote the use of innovative and alternative forms of transportation for commuters and staff, particularly in relation to underutilized or expanded RIPTA programs and linkage to the use of the Kingston Station multi-modal transportation capabilities.	TM/Plan.Dept./TTRC/RIPTA/URI			
POLICY 1.4	The Town supports the use of the South County Bike Path as an alternative means of commuter access for "down the line" commuting to the University and will continue to work in concert with URI and RIDOT to improve linkages from the existing path to the institution.	TM/PB/Plan.Dept./DPS/Parks&Rec../PD/URI/RIDOT/RIPTA			
POLICY 1.5	The Town supports efforts by the University to house a greater percentage of the student body on campus to lessen demand on rental housing within the Town and region and to mitigate commuter traffic to the campus.				
Implementation	The Town supports University programs and policies to decrease commuter traffic to and within the campus, particularly with regard to promoting the use of high occupancy vehicles, increased use of public transit (RIPTA) and shuttle buses to access the multi-modal facility at the Kingston Railroad Station.				

South Kingstown Comprehensive Plan Update
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Goal/Policy	Action	Responsible Party	Complete	Ongoing	Not Done
Implementation	The Town supports and encourages the University to provide disincentives to curb resident student use of automobiles on the campus facility. Such disincentives may include, but not be limited to: increased fees for parking, parking lot restrictions and prohibitions and considering a prohibition of underclassman parking/auto use on the Kingston campus.				
POLICY 1.6	The Town is generally supportive of the University's plans for expansion of student enrollment, provided such expansion is supported adequately through the provision of expanded housing opportunities on the Kingston campus.	TC/TM/PB/Plan.Dept.			
POLICY 1.7	To protect wetlands, surface and groundwater resources associated with the Chipuxet Aquifer the Town supports, encourages and expects that the University will utilize of best management practices for drainage handling and soil and sedimentation control all capital improvement projects, campus renovations and infrastructure management.	Plan.Dept./ConCom/URI			

PB - Planning Board
Plan. Dept. - Planning Department
TM - Town Manager's Office
TC - Town Council
Con Com - Conservation Commission
DPS - Department of Public Services
HDC - Historic District Commission
Parks&Rec - Parks and Recreation Department
URI - University of Rhode Island

Appendix C

- Municipal Buildout Analysis (2010)

Municipal Buildout Analysis

Residential Buildable Acreage	Core[1] (acres)	Rural[2] (acres)	
Vacant	630	7,685	
Developed/Underutilized	3,306	7,959	
Subtotal	3,936	15,644	
Total	**19,580**		
Build-Out Units (includes Inclusionary)			
Multi-Family	436	355	
Single-Family	1,092	3,213	
Subtotal	1,528	3,568	
Total	**5,096**		
Population Increase			
Multi-Family	545	2,796	
Single-Family	444	8,225	
Subtotal	989	11,021	
Total	**12,010**		
Buildout Potential	**2010 Base**	**Buildout Potential**	**Total**
Residential Units	13,218	5,096	**18,314**
Population	30,639	12,010	**42,649**

Notes:

1. *Core area is essentially the sewer service area, Wakefield, Peace Dale and Kingston/West Kingston.*
2. *Rural Areas are essentially remaining areas of Town.*

Source: Town of South Kingstown

Appendix D

- Functional Classification/Federal Aid Roads, South Kingstown

Functional Classification/Federal Aid Roads, South Kingstown

Route	Segment Name	Miles
Principal Arterial (Rural)		
138	Usquepaugh Road	2.05
Minor Arterial (Rural)		
2	South County Trail	2
Major Collector (Rural)		
110	Ministerial Road	5.89
Minor Collector (Rural)*		
	Worden's Pond Road	2.22
1A	Post Road	2.41
Sum		**4.63**
Freeways/Expressways (Urban)		
1	Commodore Perry Highway	6.19
1	State Highway 1A	1.45
1	Tower Hill Road	4.12
1	US Highway 1	0.48
Sum		**12.24**
Principal Arterial (Urban)		
108	Kersey Road	0.28
108	Kingstown Road	3.61
108	North Road	0.06
138	Kingstown Road	2.91
138	Mooresfield Road	3.68
2	South County Trail	1.55
Sum		**12.09**
Minor Arterial (Urban)		
	Bridgetown Road	1.36
	Columbia Street	0.69
	Post Road	0.04
	Salt Pond Road	0.36
	Succotash Road	2.09
	Tower Hill Road	0.47
	Woodruff Avenue	0.74
1A	Main Street	1.32
1A	Post Road	0.77
Sum		**7.84**
Collector Urban		
	Allen Avenue	1.15
	Broad Rock Road	3.21

	Coddington Way	0.02
	Curtis Corner Road	2.72
	Flagg Road	0.91
	Gooseberry Road	0.55
	Green Hill Beach Road	2.3
	High Street	1.1
	Kingstown Road	0.37
	Matunuck Beach Road	2.24
	Matunuck Schoolhouse Road	3.86
	Middlebridge Road	2.24
	Ocean Avenue	0.32
	Old North Road	1.54
	Old Post Road	0.42
	Old Succotash Road	0.12
	Peninsula Road	0.07
	Plains Road	1.12
	Pond Street	0.62
	Post Road	0.19
	Rodman street	0.61
	Saugatucket Road	2.49
	South Road	3.47
	Torry Road	0.54
	Tuckertown Road	1.77
	Willard Avenue	0.8
	Worden's Pond Road	0.62
	Post Road	1.02
Sum		**36.39**
Total		**83.13**

**Not classified as Federal Aid roads.*
Source: Rhode Island Statewide Planning website.

Appendix E

- Natural Resources Inventory, South Kingstown

Introduction

The purpose of the natural resources inventory is to provide a baseline of information to develop management and protection strategies for these resources. The primary goal of this inventory is to provide necessary information for environmental protection. A secondary goal is to promote a broader public consciousness of the issues. Public support and understanding are critical to establishing an effective policy framework for protecting natural resources.

For corresponding maps of natural resources, please refer to: Map 5.1 Wetlands; Map 5.2 Watersheds and Subwatersheds; Map 5.3 Critical and Environmentally Sensitive Issues; Map 5.4 Agricultural Resources; and Map 5.5 Groundwater Resources.

Natural Resources Inventory

Geology

a.) Bedrock Geology - Both igneous and metamorphic rock formations are the predominant bedrock in the area. They range in age from the Precambrian to the Pennsylvanian or younger (Moore, 1964). The northern half of the Town is underlain by gneisses of the Mississippian (or older) age, and the southern half of the Town is underlain by Pennsylvanian (or younger) age granite that reaches into Connecticut on the west and into Narragansett Bay on the east. The southeastern section of Town lies in the Narragansett Basin, a structural basin which stretches from the mouth of the Narragansett Bay into Massachusetts. Most of the basin is underlain with a sedimentary rock, but in South Kingstown the basin was found to be the Pennsylvanian granite.

b.) Surficial Geology - With the exception of some shoreline features and the organic accumulations in wetlands, all of the topography in South Kingstown is attributable to the forces of glacial erosion and deposition (Quinn, 1979). One of the most apparent effects of the glacier was a disruption of the drainage patterns, causing formation of extensive marshes and other wetlands. Worden's Pond, and the adjacent Great Swamp area, is an example of a partially filled glacial depression. The southern boundary of this lake basin is the belt of low hills and ridges called the Charlestown Moraine, which is one of the best-formed end moraines in New England (Kaye, 1960). The Moraine is between one and two miles wide and as high as 150 feet in places. In South Kingstown, the Charlestown Moraine (located just north of Route 1) is the result of rocks and soil left by the glacier as it retreated. This blocked the drainage and created many wetlands to the north. Worden's Pond and the Great Swamp are the direct result of the blocked drainage. These areas are believed to be the former site of glacial Lake Worden, which at one time occupied all of Worden's Pond and the Great Swamp. The area to the south of the Moraine is mostly low lying, relatively flat outwash plains. Another result of the glacial action is the diversity of soil types found here. Our water-rich deposits of sands and gravels (aquifers), rich agricultural soils, numerous kettle ponds (formed by blocks of ice which depressed the landscape), and rocky uplands are all a direct result of glacial action.

c.) Coastal Geology - The Rhode Island shoreline also is a result of previous glacial action and the forces of erosion and deposition. These two forces create a constantly changing coastline, filled with such dynamic features as marshes, bays, estuaries, barrier beaches, spits, sand dunes, and salt ponds. The combination of wind and wave action causes these features to move and to change continually. In addition, the impacts of human activity can exert powerful and sometimes undesirable changes on the natural features.

Normally, a beach face is made of sand, deposited by the waves. However, when a beach intersects a deposit of glacial gravels, the result can be a cobbled beach front formed as the waves wash away the sand. South Kingstown has a number of these beaches, including sections of Green Hill, Browning, Moonstone, and the Matunuck beaches.

Soils

The Soil Survey of Rhode Island has identified 134 soil types within South Kingstown (NRCS 2012). Soils have different characteristics depending on such factors as the clay/silt/sand ratio and the structure of the soil. These characteristics determine the soil properties, a key in considering the soil suitability for land uses. Such characteristics as permeability, bearing capacity, erosivity, depth to water table, and depth to bedrock are important considerations in effective land use planning.

The Soil Survey of Rhode Island defines certain use limitations for each soil type. For example, a soil may have severe limitations for septic systems because of high water table or rapid permeability. In South Kingstown, almost 50 percent of the unsewered residentially zoned land under 2 acres has severe, moderate to severe, or slight to severe septic system limitations. In such areas, careful consideration must be given to the allowable land use because of the danger of failing septic systems and the resulting ground and surface water contamination. Because some soils are susceptible to erosion, careful erosion and sediment control precautions must be taken before, during, and after construction. In some cases, development on an unsuitable soil may lead to permanent loss or degradation of a natural resource. Flood hazards can be increased, as can the amount of standing water which serves as mosquito breeding sites. Prime agricultural lands may be lost to highways, shopping centers, and housing developments. Planning land use with a knowledge of soil characteristics will ensure that construction problems are minimized and that valuable natural resources are protection.

Wetlands

South Kingstown has 9,568 acres of freshwater wetlands and 2,071 acres of coastal wetlands, which represents approximately 29 percent of the total land area in the Town.

a.) Definition and Function - Because of its glacial geology and coastal location, South Kingstown has many acres and classes of wetland. The term wetland usually brings to mind a swamp, a bog, or a marsh. The common characteristic of a wetland is that the area be at least periodically saturated or covered with water. Wetlands can be defined by soil characteristics (hydric soils), vegetation, or hydrology (Army Corps of Engineers, 1989).

b.) Freshwater Wetlands - Freshwater wetlands include wooded swamps, marshes, bogs, aquatic beds, wet meadows, lakes and ponds, and floodplains. Descriptions of wetland types can be found in Cowardin, et al, 1979. Bogs, fens and open water areas are described in Golet and Davis, 1982. South Kingstown has a total of 9,568 acres of freshwater wetlands, which comprise approximately 25 percent of the Town (RIGIS, 1990). Approximately 66 percent of the freshwater wetlands are forested (swamps), while marshes and wet meadows make up only one percent. South Kingstown has only 42 acres of rivers, as contrasted with 2,314 acres of lakes (1,075 acres are in Worden's Pond). Bogs and fens comprise less than 0.01 percent of the freshwater wetlands in the Town.

Worden's Pond (1,075 acres) is the largest natural lake in the State, and the Great Swamp is the largest forested wetland in southern New England (Guthrie and Stolgitis, 1977). Many small ponds and streams are found throughout the Town, remnants of the past glacial action -- ice carving out valleys and altering

drainage patterns. A 1,200 acre area east of Ministerial Road has 10 kettle hole ponds and is an important site for rare and endangered species (person. Comm, Joanne Michaud, RIDEM, 1990). The Chipuxet River winds south from Hundred Acre and Thirty Acre Pond, emptying into Worden's Pond. The Queen River, in the northwestern corner of Town, feeds Glen Rock Reservoir, which then forms the western boundary of the Town, the Usquepaugh River. Many brooks flow through large wetland areas in the northern section of Town --Chickasheen, Genessee, White Horn, and Mink brooks are a few. In the eastern section of Town, Asa Pond, Rocky Brook Reservoir, Peace Dale Reservoir, and Indian Lake are the larger surface water bodies. In the northeastern section of Town, the Saugatucket Pond feeds the Saugatucket River which runs through the center of Wakefield before emptying into Point Judith Pond to the south.

c.) Coastal Wetlands - Coastal wetlands include salt marshes, estuarine scrub shrub wetlands, beaches (unconsolidated shores, rocky shores), and estuarine and tidal waters (salt ponds and estuarine rivers). A description of these wetland classes is found in Cowardin, et al, 1979. The Town has maintained a Harbor Management Plan (2011) to identify and to address issues related to Town tidal waters. Such issues as moorings, public access, current uses, water quality, and a resource inventory are included. A copy of this Plan is on file in the Planning Department and available on the Town of South Kingstown website; www.southkingstownri.com.

South Kingstown has approximately 363 acres of coastal wetlands, with an additional 1,707 acres of salt ponds and estuarine rivers. There are only 304 acres of salt marsh remaining in South Kingstown. Additionally, there are relatively few acres of the remaining wetland classes (beaches, riverine, and scrub shrub). The Town of South Kingstown has over four miles of undeveloped barrier beaches and over one mile of developed barrier beaches, as designated by the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program. Construction is prohibited on an undeveloped barrier beach, except where the primary purpose of the project is protection, maintenance, restoration or improvement of the feature as a conservation area or natural storm buffer (Olsen and Seavey, 1983).

The coastal boundaries of South Kingstown include five coastal ponds and one estuarine river (Figure 7). The water bodies are, from east to west, the Pettaquamscutt River (or Narrow River), Point Judith Pond, Potter Pond, Card Pond, Trustom Pond, and Green Hill Pond. South Kingstown is bounded on the west by the Town of Charlestown, which claims the most westerly portion of Green Hill Pond. South Kingstown shares a significant portion of its coastal resources with the Town of Narragansett, as the eastern Town boundary splits both Point Judith and the Narrow River.

Prepared by the South Kingstown Planning Dept.

SK Acreage	Depth	Average (feet)
Green Hill	412	2.5
Potter	350	2
Point Judith	571	6*
Trustom	154	1.5
Card	49	1.5
Narrow River	148	4**

*many areas less than 3 feet in the main channel.
**at MLW; and 2 northern basins of 50 foot depth.
(From NOAH charts #13218, 13219 and 13221.)

Point Judith and Potter Ponds - Point Judith Pond receives a major water input from the Saugatucket River to the north, while the southern portion of the pond is open to Block Island Sound. The construction of a permanent channel in the early 1900's resulted in a marked change in the physical, chemical and biological nature of the pond. For the past ten years, the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council has designated Point Judith, Green Hill, and Potter Ponds as Shellfish Management Areas. There are three commercially harvested species of shellfish in the Pond: the soft shell clam, the bay scallop, and the quahog. In addition, hundreds of recreational fishermen use the pond. Such species as flounder, perch, and eels have been harvested. However, in 1991, the State prohibited the harvesting of winter flounder in the salt ponds. Point Judith and Potter Pond also support small operations for shellfish hatchery aquaculture. In addition, in 1990, the State stocked the area with 100,000 bay scallops and oysters continue to be farmed by local aquaculture operations. Because of its greater depth and predominantly soft bottom, Potter Pond supports a limited recreational shellfishery, primarily being used by residents who live around the pond.

Green Hill Pond - In 1962 a channel was constructed to connect Green Hill Pond to Ninigret Pond in Charlestown. This has resulted in the decrease of several important fish species. Fresh water input is from groundwater, Factory Pond Brook and surface water runoff. The major resource of the pond is the oyster, which may be harvested in October after the State lifts the pollution closure imposed during the summer.

Narrow (Pettaquamscutt) River - The Narrow River is actually a tidal inlet and an estuary, an area where fresh and salt water mix. The area contains floodplains and salt marshes which are valuable habitat to a diversity of wildlife, including a number of rare and endangered species. Shellfish resources remain plentiful in the river. Prior to the water quality degradation and closure by RIDEM, the Narrow River supported a substantial recreational and seasonal commercial shellfishery (Howard-Strobel, 1987). In October 1988, Congress passed legislation authorizing the creation of the Pettaquamscutt Cove National Wildlife Refuge. As of July 2012, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service had purchased 10 tracts of land totaling 130 acres within the boundaries.

Groundwater

As a result of previous glacial activity, numerous outwash deposits (sands and gravels) which yield high quantities of groundwater are found in South Kingstown, The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) has designated large areas as GAA, the highest quality rating for drinking water. The major part of the GAA area is the critical portion of the recharge area to the groundwater reservoirs. South Kingstown relies solely on groundwater for its potable water. In 1988, the aquifers in the Town were designated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as the Pawcatuck Sole Source Aquifer. These aquifers are part of the ten interconnected aquifers in the Pawcatuck Basin Watershed. A Sole Source Aquifer means that the area obtains more than 51 percent of its drinking water from an aquifer, and that there is no reasonable alternate source of potable water. The Pawcatuck Basin Sole Source Aquifer includes all or portions of ten Rhode Island towns and sections of four Connecticut towns.

It should be noted that these ten aquifers in the Pawcatuck Sole Source Aquifer are not separated by any major groundwater divide. Therefore, the Mink, the Queen, and the Chipuxet aquifers in South Kingstown are considered to be a part of this large single aquifer system. Another important consideration in developing a groundwater protection strategy is that, because of the geology of the region, the groundwater is closely connected to the surface water bodies. This means that contamination of a surface water body probably will affect the quality of the groundwater. The watersheds (the land basin which drains all the streams and rainfall to a common outlet) for the groundwater resources must be protected.

a.) Groundwater Reservoirs and Recharge Areas - South Kingstown has three groundwater reservoirs, as delineated by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM): the Chipuxet, the Mink, and the Queen/Usquepaug. The RIDEM defines a groundwater reservoir as having a saturated thickness of 40 feet and a transmissivity of 4,000 feet squared per day. The critical portions of the recharge areas for the groundwater reservoirs and the Factory Pond outwash region also have been delineated by RIDEM. The Groundwater Section of the RIDEM has defined the critical portion of the recharge areas for the ground-water reservoirs as: a) the aquifer areas (groundwater reservoirs and portions of the surrounding stratified drift); and, b) the adjacent areas (areas of till and bedrock from which water that percolates to the water table flows through the subsurface to the aquifer area without first discharging to a perennial stream). Details on the delineation method are noted in the South Kingstown Water Quality Protection Plan (Draft, 1991).

The Chipuxet groundwater reservoir is approximately 3.1 square miles, with the majority falling within South Kingstown and the northern end falling in Exeter. The Queen groundwater reservoir is approximately 0.9 square miles, and lies within both South Kingstown and Exeter. The Queen and the Chipuxet share a critical recharge area, the total being approximately 11.2 square miles. The Chipuxet recharge area extends into both Exeter and North Kingstown. The Mink groundwater reservoir is approximately 0.7 square miles. The Mink and the Factory Pond recharge areas each cover approximately 2.6 square miles (RIGIS, 1990) and both lie completely within South Kingstown. A small section of approximately 17 acres, of the Beaver recharge area also lies within the Town (a groundwater reservoir in Richmond).

Watersheds

No matter where you are on land, you are in a watershed. A watershed is a land basin which drains all the streams and rainfall to a common outlet (think of a bathtub). The hills and valleys in the landscape define the boundary by determining the size and shape of the basin. South Kingstown has several major watersheds to consider. The largest is the Pawcatuck watershed, which includes portions of ten Rhode Island towns (about one-third of our State) and four Connecticut towns (see Map 5.2). The outlet for the Pawcatuck Watershed is Little Narragansett Bay. In this watershed, the surface and groundwater watersheds are coincident in most places (the Sole Source Aquifer boundary follows the surface watershed).

Another major watershed is the Frontal Block Island Sound watershed, which is bounded on the east by Route 108, on the north by Route 1 in Narragansett and along Tuckertown Road and the Narragansett Trail into Charlestown. This watershed drains into the Block Island Sound. A third major watershed in the town, is the Pettaquamscutt (Narrow) River Watershed which is shared with both North Kingstown and Narragansett. The Watershed drains into the Pettaquamscutt (Narrow) River which then empties into the southern end of Narragansett Bay.

Within these larger watersheds are sub-watersheds (or sub-basins), marked by the hills and valleys in the landscape. As defined by RIDEM and the RIGIS watershed boundary set, there are 7 sub-watersheds in South Kingstown: Southwest Coastal Waters, Point Judith Pond, Pettaquamscutt (Narrow) River, Chickasheen, Queen, Saugatucket, and Upper Pawcatuck River sub-basins. As can be seen from Map 5.2, most are shared with other towns.

Upland Vegetation

The Town of South Kingstown has a diversity of vegetation types because of the varied topography and soils. The uplands support large oak forests, the forest type which dominates southern New England. Oaks are found primarily on the warmer, southerly exposed slopes. Because the soils in these areas tend to be acidic and oak leaves are slow to decompose, the understory in these forests is limited to mostly blueberries, rhododendrons, azaleas, and laurel.

Stands of white pine (*Pinus strobus*) also are found, yet because the trees are not shade tolerant and seedlings do not germinate well in organic soils, white pines are not found in mature forests (as are the oaks). White pines may live to be 400 years old, but have been a heavily exploited tree, being cut and sold for ship masts. Another vegetative cover is pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*), found in the sandy outwash soils. Many acres of pine barrens are found in South Kingstown. The pine barren habitat -- dry, sandy soils, supports several rare and endangered species. Hemlocks (*Tsuga canadensis*) and Beech (*Fagus grandilfolia*) often are found on the northerly, cooler slopes, as they are more shade tolerant trees and not resistant to fire.

Much of the forest land in Rhode Island was cleared at one time for grazing, farming, or timber. The post-agricultural fields are marked by stands of gray birch, red cedar, white pine, sumac, juniper, and dogwood, to name a few species. Each forest type represents a distinct habitat which provides homes for a diversity of plants and animals.

Rare and Endangered Species

South Kingstown is the single most important town in Rhode Island for rare species and natural communities (pers. comm., Joanne Michaud, RIDEM, 1990). The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's Natural Heritage Program (RINHP) has mapped the areas of critical habitat for these species of ecological significance. Individuals interested further information on rare and endangered species are encouraged to review RINHP mapping resources.

State and Federal Land

This category of natural resources includes all State and federally-owned land. Additional information on the area is given in the Open Space and Recreation Element and in the Harbor Management Plan, 1990.

a.) National Wildlife Refuges - Trustom Pond and Pettaquamscutt Cove are the two National Wildlife Refuges in South Kingstown.

Trustom Pond National Wildlife Refuge – This refuge contains 130 acres in South Kingstown and was established in 1974 for the primary purpose of providing nesting, resting, and feeding habitat for migratory birds. Its secondary purpose is to provide quality wildlife-oriented recreation opportunities. It includes 1.5 miles of barrier beach (Moonstone Beach) and Card and Trustom Ponds. The habitats on the refuge include: fields, marshes, mudflats, freshwater pond and wooded swamps, brackish pond, shrubland, barrier beach and dune systems, and croplands. Waterfowl hunting is allowed on some lands, which are separate from the 3 miles of trails.

John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge - In 1988, legislation was passed to establish the Pettaquamscutt Cove (Narrow River) National Wildlife Refuge. The Fish and Wildlife Service is in the process of acquiring land within the boundary which includes the Cove, associated salt marshes and tidal flats, and a buffer of forested upland habitat. The refuge currently has 317 acres of land in South Kingstown and they are hoping to expand to over 800 acres.

b.) State - There are approximately 3,642 acres of State land dedicated to conservation in the Town (see Open Space and Recreation Element). The largest parcel is 3,050 acres in the Great Swamp Management Area.

Open Space

An open space plan can serve as a major organizing component in the overall pattern of development. Open space is a valuable part of a community plan for its diverse benefits to the residents. Recreation areas, wildlife habitats, scenic areas, pollution abatement, and buffers are some of the benefits of open space. Open space can be used to preserve and to protect groundwater resources, agricultural lands, and significant natural features.

In addition, lands which could pose a danger to humans if developed can be set aside as open space. Dangers from flooding, erosion and coastal storms can be minimized by incorporating these lands into an open space plan. The open space network within the Town should contain agricultural areas, groundwater reservoir and recharge areas, wetlands, nature study educational areas, parks and wildlife habitats. The Town should strive to create a pattern of open space which serves to maximize the effect of each protected parcel of land. The plan should create a pattern of open space and recreation areas which are linked in a corridor or network. This approach could be enhanced by joining private, quasi-public and public open space into a continuous linear system.

See Plan Introduction and Open Space and Recreation Element for additional information.

Agricultural Land

The agricultural landscape has long been a part of New England history. Much of Rhode Island was at one time cleared for farming purposes as indicated by the many stonewalls which wind through fields and second growth forests (areas where trees have grown in abandoned fields or areas that were once logged). The State has recognized that prime agricultural land is an important natural resource which needs to be preserved. In 1981, the Governor's Task Force of Agricultural Preservation reported that, "Certain agricultural land should be preserved because it is best suited to that use, and adequate land is available elsewhere for other activities." The Task Force also recommended that the northeastern region of the country strive to become less agriculturally dependent on the rest of the nation.

In 1982, the State passed the Farmland Preservation Act (RI GL 42-82-1) which states that:

The general assembly recognizes that land suitable for food production in the State has become extremely scarce and valuable resource... that agriculture is an important part of the state's economy, environment, and quality of life, and that local food production will become increasingly important to the people of the State...

Subsequent to the passage of this Act, the voters in the State have approved bond issues for the purchase of farm development rights (see following section). Yet much farmland has been lost to commercial and

residential development or abandoned. Only 24 percent of the farmland in the State in 1945 exists today -- a decrease from 300,000 acres to 73,000 acres (USDA, 1988). In South Kingstown, over half of the farmland has been lost. In 1937, 26 percent of the Town was in pastures and haylands (or 9,767 acres), and in 1988, only 13 percent of the land was in pastures and haylands (or 5,051 acres) (USDA, 1979 and RIGIS, 1988). Such uses as housing, commercial buildings, and roadways threaten the agricultural lands with irreversible destruction. Land which has been protected for agricultural preservation is shown on Map 5.4.

There are many reasons to protect our farmland areas:

- Farmlands contribute to our open space and, therefore, help to maintain the rural character of the Town which makes it attractive as both a place to live and to visit.
- Farmlands contribute to the economic activity of the Town. It has been noted that Rhode Island farmers contribute substantial economic activity for the size of the State (Smith, 1987). Additionally, the Town's tourism industry is strengthened by its rural character.
- Farmlands provide a tax base for the Town, without the attendant services expenditures involved with residential development.
- Farmland preservation efforts can be incorporated with affordable housing initiatives. In 1990, the RI General Assembly established the RI Housing and Conservation Trust Fund. When this program receives funding, it may be possible to combine affordable housing with the purchase of conservation areas or development rights to farms. The approach has been successful in other states.

Areas of Critical Concern

These are areas which represent such important natural resources as habitats for rare and endangered species, groundwater reservoirs and recharge areas to drinking water supplies, barrier beaches, representative wetland classes which are in danger of destruction, wetlands with important wildlife, educational, and pollution mitigation value, and threatened agricultural lands.

Through RIGIS mapping efforts, many of these areas have been identified. There are approximately 4,837 acres in Town in which Natural Heritage boundaries for rare and endangered species overlap with groundwater reservoirs and recharge areas. Approximately 11,436 acres of these lands are wetlands. Another area of concern is the Salt Pond and Narrow River Special Management areas. There are over 2,773 acres of land designated as Natural Heritage areas for rare and endangered species (3,600 acres of land and water) which fall within these boundaries.

Flood Zones

Flood zones are defined herein as those areas where there is a 1% chance of a flood occurrence in a given year. These areas subject to flooding are geographically dispersed throughout South Kingstown with the largest areas associated with coastal, riverine and estuarine features. Both 'A' flood zones and 'V' flood zones are present in South Kingstown. These particular flood zones are designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and are identified on the applicable Flood Insurance Rate Maps distributed by that agency. Flood elevations where related wave and storm surge action occurs are designated as 'V' (velocity) zones and impact those lands contiguous to the shoreline along the South Shore coastal region. These ‘V zone' areas are predominantly located from the shoreline inland to the furthest extent of the salt ponds.

Activities in flood zones within South Kingstown are regulated under both the Zoning Ordinance and the Subdivision and Land Development Regulations. Article 12 of the Zoning Ordinance establishes a High Flood Danger District (HFD) that incorporates the areas between the ocean and the coastal ponds. Construction of new residential structures within the HFD is allowed only by -special use permit.

Appendix F

- Cultural Resources Inventory, South Kingstown

Introduction

Cultural resources help define the identity of a town by providing continuity of time and place. The cumulative effects of circumstances unique to each place cultivate, over time, a locale-specific character. This character is embodied in the historic buildings, structures, and sites, as well as the prehistoric sites that comprise the town.

Since the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) in 1966, awareness of local cultural resources has grown and tremendous strides have been made toward preserving the buildings, structures, and sites that reflect the unique history and individual character of a town. The Town of South Kingstown, with its rich and varied history, has long recognized the importance of preserving the cultural features that contribute to its singular identity. This cultural resources inventory presents a baseline of information which South Kingstown will use to continue to protect the physical remains of its heritage as the Town moves into the future.

Cultural Resources Inventory

The long history of South Kingstown is reflected in the assortment of historic buildings and structures, as well as historic and prehistoric archaeological sites, present throughout town. These existing features embody the diverse aspects of South Kingstown's past and create South Kingstown's unique personality. A preliminary survey published by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission (RIHPHC) in 1984 identified 337 historic buildings and structures in South Kingstown. Concentrations of resources were identified in the eastern portion of town, specifically in the villages of Wakefield, Peace Dale, and Kingston. These buildings reflect the architectural styles of the 17th century through the 20th century, as well as the various lifestyles and occupations of South Kingstown residents over the past 300 years.

The information within the RIHPHC 1984 survey and the 1992 Comprehensive Plan has been updated and streamlined within the cultural resources inventory below.

Archaeological Resources

The abundance of resources in South Kingstown has encouraged habitation of the area for thousands of years. The history of the various resident groups is contained in the archaeological record as well as the built environment. Prehistoric and historic archaeological sites contain valuable information about the land use and social history of South Kingstown.

a.) Prehistoric Sites - The combination of inland and coastal resources and a mild climate was conducive to prehistoric occupation. Evidence of prehistoric camps and villages is found throughout town, especially in the area of the Salt Ponds along Block Island Sound and Narragansett Bay. Ceramic fragments dating as far back as 3100 years were recovered from the Potter Pond Archaeological District located along the southern shore of South Kingstown. The district contains a variety of sites including household settlements and resource processing and disposal areas.

b.) Historic Sites - The locations of old mills, farmsteads, and residences comprise the majority of historic archaeological sites. All of these are important aids in understanding the settlement patterns and lifestyles of earlier residents.

c.) Underwater Sites - Many shipwrecks are known to have occurred off the coast of South Kingstown. The remains of these boats remain largely intact and undisturbed, capturing a moment of time inside. Among the wrecks is that of the John Paul, which went down off Green Hill on February 10, 1893.

Existing Historic Sites and Structures

The type of historic buildings, structures and sites found in South Kingstown range from vernacular cottages and agricultural buildings to high-style, landed, estates. They represent architectural styles, cultural values, and modes of living from the late 17th century through the present. The development of South Kingstown is legible in the distribution of buildings, residential, commercial, and industrial, across the landscape.

In each pocket of settlement, the styles and type of buildings convey the history of that particular community within the larger town. These buildings, in addition to the buildings and features found across landscape, create a sense of place and contribute a dimension to the quality of life in South Kingstown.

a.) Villages - The Town of South Kingstown contains many smaller, historically unique villages and hamlets. Each has its own traditional character reflecting the resources available at that location. The majority of the villages were founded around commercial or industrial ventures. Dwellings for workers followed, as did churches, schools, and commercial establishments to support the resident population.

Centers of Government - Kingston, originally known as Little Rest, was organized in the 1770's as the county seat of Washington County. The County Courthouse was among the first Town buildings to be constructed. The Federal style building was significantly remodeled in 1876 with the addition of a mansard roof and central pavilion when it was converted into the town library. Other government buildings include two granite block structures, a jail, constructed in 1792 and a records office, the first fireproof building in Rhode Island, built in 1857, and the current County Courthouse, constructed in the Romanesque Revival style circa 1900. This is one of the only nonindustrial villages in South Kingstown. Instead, artisans and other professionals settled in Little Rest. The establishment of a land grant college (later the University of Rhode Island) in 1889 solidified Kingston's position as the intellectual center of the community. Many of the extant early Federal and Greek Revival buildings, including a bank, several schools and taverns, are characteristic of Kingston in addition to the late 19th century and early 20th century buildings built following the formation of the college.

Mill Villages - Several villages and hamlets in South Kingstown (Peace Dale, Rocky Brook, Glen Rock, Usquepaug, Mooresfield, and Biscuit City) were settled around mills.

The largest and most formal of these is Peace Dale, which developed around the mills of Rowland Hazard, the first built in 1847. In addition to his mill complexes, Hazard designed the Peace Dale Congregational Church, the Town Hall, and several bridges. Residences of the mill owners and workers were built along with such requisite support facilities as schools, a post office, and a few commercial establishments.

The other hamlets evolved as a collection of residences and farmsteads around a mill or, what is today often, the former site of a mill. These communities also included schools and churches to serve the population, as well as a few commercial establishments. In the case of Biscuit City, the entire hamlet is now an archaeological site composed of mill ruins and house foundations.

Transportation Centers - The villages of West Kingston and Perryville grew around transportation facilities. West Kingston was founded in 1837 when the New York, Providence and Boston Railroad built

a station there. Perryville originated as a cluster of farms around a stage coach stop in the early 18th century. Several houses and a store or church developed around each node. Today, Perryville is characterized by 18th century Georgian and Federal style houses, while the houses of West Kingston are primarily later, nineteenth century styles featuring bracketed eaves and mansard roofs.

Commercial Centers - Two South Kingstown villages served primarily as commercial districts: Wakefield and Fisk Flats. Fisk Flats, a small hamlet between Peace Dale and Rocky Brook, originally served as the commercial center of Peace Dale. Wakefield, founded around one of South Kingstown's many mills, grew into the main commercial center for the town. Both locations feature a variety of nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial blocks, in addition to residences and churches. Among these are a nineteenth century flat iron building and two early twentieth century diners.

Summer Colonies - Along the shores of Narragansett Bay and Block Island Sound, the communities of Green Hill, Matunuck Hills, and Matunuck Beach evolved to house the influx of summer residents to the area. The houses, built in a variety of late 19th century styles, range from group boarding houses to small, vernacular cottages to high style, shingled estates designed by the leading, turn-of-the-century architects, including Stanford White of the firm McKim, Mead and White.

b.) Farmsteads and Residences - Scattered across the countryside are residential and agricultural structures dating from the late seventeenth century through the present. Perhaps the earliest extant house in South Kingstown, the Samuel Perry House, was reputedly constructed in 1696. Many of the earliest farms include residences within a complex of agricultural out-buildings and surrounding farm land. Remnants of farms, houses and an occasional outbuilding are visible, although commonly without the encompassing acreage as a result of ongoing development. However, a sense of the Town's settlement patterns can be gleaned by looking at the age and distribution of the farmhouses. In addition to vernacular 18th and 19th century houses which feature such stylistic details as fanlights above the doors, pedimented gables, and bracketed eaves, are the large, architect-designed houses from the estates of South Kingstown's leading families.

c.) Educational Facilities - Schools in South Kingstown run the gamut in size and sophistication from 19th century, one-room schoolhouses to the Kingston Seminary (a coeducational academy opened in 1829), to the University of Rhode Island campus, established in 1889. The majority of historic schools continue to be used as educational facilities, while the smaller schools serve the elementary students in the various neighborhoods.

d.) Religious Facilities - The numerous churches in South Kingstown attest to the cultural and ethnic diversity of South Kingstown's population. The buildings range stylistically from one-story, vernacular structures to classic, early-19th-century New England Meeting Houses to structures incorporating elements of the later-19th century Gothic and Shingle styles. Almost all still are used actively.

e.) Places of Assembly -Several structures in South Kingstown were built specifically as meeting places. These include three granges (one constructed in the late nineteenth century and two built during the early twentieth century) and a 1903 Masonic hall.

f.) Recreational Facilities - The second oldest youth camp in the world, Camp Fuller, is one of three, early twentieth century summer camps in South Kingstown. Camp Fuller is affiliated with the Y. M. C.A. while the other two, Camp Hoffman and Camp Aquapaug are affiliated with the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts respectively. Structures dating from the 1930's are still in use at all three facilities. An important aspect to each camp is the landscape that has evolved over their tenure of recreational activity.

g.) Engineering Structures -Historic bridges cross South Kingstown's many streams. These include arched stone bridges from the late nineteenth century; single arched, bridges of reinforced concrete built in the 1920's and 1930's; and, wooden decked, steel truss bridges. Other engineering structures in town include the mine shaft from the Cajoot Lead Mine, a source of graphite from prehistoric times to the mid-19th century which is still visible, although it has been filled in and an observation tower at Hannah Robinson Rock, built in 1936-1937, which served as a signal tower for the U.S. Army Signal Corps during World War II.

h.) Cemeteries and Stone Walls -Stone walls and historic cemeteries are common features of the South Kingstown landscape. Numerous historic cemeteries in South Kingstown have been identified by the Rhode Island Veterans' Cemetery Office. These range from small family plots (the Rose Family Cemetery which contains 4550 stones within a walled enclosure and dates from the late 19th century to the early 20th century) to larger burial grounds, which may be associated with nearby churches (the Usquepaug Cemetery across from the Queen's River Baptist Church).

i.) Monuments - A variety of commemorative monuments can be found around South Kingstown. These markers, generally of stone or concrete, commemorate various people and events in South Kingstown's history. These range from a 1906 monument commemorating the site of the 1675 Great Swamp Fight to the "Carter Killed Jackson" Monument, a granite marker inscribed with an account of the murder of William Jackson by Thomas Carter in 1751. More formal monuments are found in Peace Dale. One honors deceased members of Narragansett Engine Company #1, established in Peace Dale in 1867. Another, a dressed granite sculpture entitled The Weaver was created by Daniel Chester French in 1920 in memory of Rowland Hazard and his sons.

Properties Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places was established in 1966 by the National Historic Preservation Act to identify publicly and privately owned cultural resources and to encourage maintenance and planning for compatible use of the designated properties. Properties nominated to the National Register must meet one of four criteria:

- Criteria A: Association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- Criteria B: Association with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- Criteria C: Embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or representative of the work of a master, or possessing high artistic values, or representing a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or,
- Criteria D: Yielding, or likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Properties listed in the National Register must meet at least one of the four above criteria and retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Before any federally-funded, licensed, or regulated action can occur at or near a property listed on the National Register, the action must be reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in order to minimize and/or to mitigate any impact it will have on the historic site.

Districts:

- Browning's Beach Historic District, Card's Pond Road (9/5/97)
- Kingston Village Historic District, both sides of Kingstown Road and Mooresfield Road between Little Rest Road on the west and Kingstown Road on the east; also, sections of adjacent South and North Roads and Potter Lane (5/1/74)
- Peace Dale Historic District, Amos, Branch, Brown, Church, Columbia, Green, Kimball, Larkin, Railroad, School and Spring Streets and Broad Rock, Indian Run, Kersey, Kingstown, and North Roads (10/30/87)
- Potter Pond Archaeological District (12/10/87)
- Usquepaug Road Historic District, Usquepaug Road (10/30/87)
- Wakefield Historic District, roughly bounded by Main and High Street, and Wright Avenue (5/30/96)

Individual Properties:

- Theatre-by-the-Sea, Card Ponds Road (7/10/80)
- Hale House, 2625A Commander Oliver Hazard Perry Highway
- Willow Dell, 2700 Commander Oliver Hazard Perry Highway (11/21/96)
- R.R. Gardner House, 700 Curtis Corner Road (11/21/96)
- Fernwood Cemetery, (RI-702), Kingstown Road (9/12/85)
- Kingstown Railroad Station, Kingstown Road (4/26/78)
- Lambda Chi Site, (RI-704), Kingstown Road (11/1/84)
- Shadow Farm, Kingstown Road (2/7/86)
- Isaac Peace Rodman House, 1789 Kingstown Road (4/23/90)
- Washington County Courthouse, 3481 Kingstown Road (11/5/92)
- William Davis Miller House, 130 Main Street (3/21/85)
- Kenyon's Department Store, 344 Main Street (11/5/92)
- Admiral Dewey Inn/Dewey Cottage, 668 Matunuck Beach Road (5/7/92)
- Jireh Bull Blockhouse Historic Site, (RI-926), Middlebridge Road (11/2/83)
- Ministerial Road Archaeological Site, (RI-781), Ministerial Road (11/15/84)
- Perry/Carpenter Gristmill, Moonstone Beach Road (3/9/90)
- Tootell House, 1747 Mooresfield Road (5/26/00)
- Henry Eldred Farm, 368 Old North Road (11/18/91)
- Kingston Hill Farm, 549 Old North Road (5/7/93)
- Commodore Perry Farm, 184 Post Road (8/26/82)
- Red House, 2403 Post Road (11/21/96)
- Henry Marchant Farm, South County Trail (8/16/79)
- Bouchard Site, (RI-1025), Usquepaug Road (11/1/84)
- Fayerweather Blacksmith Site, (RI-701), Usquepaug Road (11/29/84)
- Tappan Site, (RI-795), Usquepaug Road (11/1/84)
- Cottrell House, 500 Waites Corner Road (11/21/96)

The locations of National Register historic properties and districts in South Kingstown can be found on Map 5.6 Cultural Resources. The locations of archeological sites are not shown on the map to protect historic resources.

Properties Which May Be Eligible for Listing in the National Register of Historic Places

- Matunuck Point Summer Colony, Peninsula Road
- University of Rhode Island Quadrangle
- Hazard Holland House, Antique Road, off Matunuck Beach Road
- Dockray House, 2 Dockray Road
- Dry Stone Walls, Edgewater Road
- Kenyon Corn Meal Company, Glen Rock Road
- Wakefield Mill, 10 High Street
- The Wells Place, Littlefield Lane
- Watson House, 141 Main Street, Wakefield
- Green Farm/Windy Meadows, Matunuck Schoolhouse Road
- Samuel Perry House, 844 Matunuck Schoolhouse Road
- Browning Homestead Farm, off Matunuck Schoolhouse Road
- Pettaquamscutt Rock, off Middlebridge Road
- Tucker-Albro House, 155 Ministerial Road
- Palmer Gardner House, Mooresfield Road
- Henry Palmer House, 557 Old Succotash Road
- John Potter House/"Great House," Post Road, south of Succotash Road
- Jeremiah P. Robinson House, 145 Post Road
- William Congdon House/Brookfield, 159 Post Road
- The Watson Tract, Post Road
- House, 166 Post Road
- Rocky Meadows Farm, 205 Post Road
- George E. Rose, Jr. House, Rose Hill Road
- Watson House, Saugatucket Road
- Solomon Carpenter House, 144 South Road
- Mileage Marker, South Road
- Town Pound, South Road
- Great Swamp Fight Site, off South County Trail
- Kymbolde, Torry Road
- Hannah Robinson's Rock, Tower Hill Road
- Shadblow Farm, Tower Hill Road
- Dr. Nathan Knight Farmhouse, Usquepaug Road
- Larchwood Inn, Main Street

Historic Designed Landscapes Which May Be Eligible for Listing in the National Register of Historic Places

- "The Glebe," Walmsley Lane off Bridgetown Road
- Henry Marchant House, South County Trail
- Shadow Farm
- Hazard Farm, Columbia Street
- Hazard Homestead, East Street
- Potter Residence, North Road
- Shadblow Farm, Tower Hill Road

- "Little Rest," 1276 Kingston Road
- Larchwood Inn, 176 Main Street
- Isaac Peace Rodman House, 961 Kingstown Road
- George E. Rose Jr. House, Rose Hill Road
- University of Rhode Island
- Dr. R.R. Robinson Estate/Edgewood Farm/J.P. Robinson House, 99 Main Street and 145 Post Road
- Watson Tract, Post Road
- Welsh House, Torry Road
- "Kymbolde," Torry Road
- Hazard Memorial, Kingstown Road
- Saugatucket Park/Wakefield Grammar School, Main and High Streets
- "Shephard's Run," Tower Hill Road
- Robinson Spring and Spring House, off Tuckertown Road across from Stewart Nursery
- ENDALAR, Post Road, built by Stanford White (c. 1880's)
- Old Mill (stone ruins) about 100 yards beyond the spring
- Oliver Watson Home
- John Richmond House (formerly store and livery stable)
- Boisclair House
- Waites Corner itself (site of old church)
- Baptist Church, Wakefield
- Church of Ascension, Wakefield

Appendix G

- Water Supply System Executive Summaries, South Kingstown

Overview of Water Supply System Executive Summaries

Rhode Island General Law § 46-15.3-5.1, Public Drinking Water Supply System Protection, requires that the executive summaries from the water supply system management plans of all water suppliers in Town be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan. As references in Policy 3.1 of the Services and Facilities Element (page SF-9), the following executive summaries have been provided in their full length hereto in order to meet this R.I.G.L. requirement.

South Kingstown is home to four (4) water supply systems providing public drinking water in the Town: Town of South Kingstown Public Services Department, University of Rhode Island-Kingston Campus, United Water Rhode Island, and Kingston Water District. Approximate distribution figures for each of the water supply system as of January 2014 are provided below.

- The Town of South Kingstown, under the Public Services Department, Water Division owns and operates two separate water systems:
  - The South Shore system provides water to 2,479 service accounts
  - Middlebridge system provides water to 284 service accounts
- The University of Rhode Island-Kingston Campus system provides water to approximately 104 buildings on campus.
- The United Water Rhode Island system provides water to 7,252 service accounts
- The Kingston Water District system provides water to 1,058 service accounts

Contact Information

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509 Commodore Perry Highway
Wakefield, RI 02879

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Facilities Services-Sherman Building
523 Plains Road
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JGA PROJECT NO. 08-006

WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR
SOUTH KINGSTOWN PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PREPARED FOR:

TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN, RHODE ISLAND
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Executive Summary

Background

This Water Supply System Management Plan (WSSMP) has been prepared as required under the Rhode Island General Laws 46-15.3, as amended and titled "The Water Supply System Management Planning Act" (Act). The legislative authority to effectuate the goals and policies of this Act has been conferred to the RIWRB. To this end, the RIWRB has promulgated the Rules and Procedures for Water Supply System Management Planning, October 1998, as amended to implement the provisions of this Act.

Under this regulation, the South Kingstown, Public Services Department, Water Division, as a water purveyor supplying over 50 million gallons of water per year, is responsible for the preparation and adoption of a WSSMP. It also requires that this WSSMP be updated periodically, as significant changes warrant, and every five (5) years, or as otherwise stipulated in the Regulations.

Water Supply System Management Plans are prepared in order to provide the proper framework that will facilitate the effective and efficient conservation, development, utilization and protection of the natural water resources of the State as utilized by the water purveyor. Further, the overall goals incorporate the applicable policies and recommendations of the State Guide Plan Element 721, "Water Supply Policies for Rhode Island." The purpose of this WSSMP is to outline the objectives of the Water Supply System Management Planning process for the South Kingstown municipal water supply and distribution system, and to serve as a guide to employ the proper decision-making processes toward meeting that goal.

This WSSMP contains a detailed description of the water system and includes the policies and procedures related to the general function, operation, and management of the water system. The Emergency Management section relates to the vulnerability assessment of the water system for use in emergency planning. It shall be incumbent upon the Water Division to implement the recommendations and procedures outlined in this WSSMP in order to comply with the overall requirements of the Act.

Water System Description

The Town of South Kingstown, under the Public Services Department, Water Division, owns and operates two (2) separate water systems – South Shore and Middlebridge. The South Shore system is comprised of approximately 36 miles of water transmission and distribution mains, hydrants, meters, a booster pump station, two (2) elevated water storage tanks, and appurtenances that serve 2,451 service accounts (e.g. residential, commercial, and governmental) as of June 30, 2007.

The Middlebridge system is comprised of approximately 4 miles of water transmission and distribution main, hydrants, meters, and appurtenances that serve 280 service accounts (e.g. residential and commercial) within the Town as of June 30, 2007.

There are three (3) water purveyors within the Town of South Kingstown. Of these, only the Kingston Water District has water district boundaries established under Rhode Island General Law.

The transmission and distribution system as a whole consists of approximately 40 miles of water main, ranging in size from 6 to 14 inches, with installation dates from the 1960s to the present. New and replacement mains consist predominantly of cement-lined ductile iron (DI) pipe. The majority of the transmission and distribution system at present is comprised of asbestos-cement water mains.

The Public Services Department owns and operates three (3) wells located in the southern area of town. The wells are currently exercised and maintained by the Town. The RIDOH continues to sample the wells to maintain their active status to provide a standby source of water supply for the South Shore distribution system. The Town now purchases the water for the South Shore system from United Water of Rhode Island (UWRI) on an interim basis. The Middlebridge distribution system does not own or operate any surface or groundwater resources. As such, wholesale purchase from UWRI constitutes the sole source of supply to this system.

The South Shore water system is operated as a single pressure zone, which is controlled by the water elevation in the water storage tank(s). The overflow elevation at each of the water storage tanks is equal to 210 feet Mean Sea Level (MSL). Water is received from the interconnection with UWRI, which in turn fills the Victoria Lane storage tank. A SCADA system controls an altitude valve in the interconnection meter pit such that it is deactivated when the tank reaches overflow elevation and it is activated when the water drops to a preset level in the tank.

An in line booster pump station is located on Card's Pond Road which boosts service to the south-central and southwestern regions of Town. The booster pump station works on radio telemetry with the Mautucket Road storage tank and boosts water from the system to replenish this tank. The hydraulic grade of the South Shore is maintained by the water level in the water storage facilities (i.e. 210 feet MSL).

The water supply and distribution system is 100% metered. The master meters located at the two (2) wholesale interconnections to UWRI and the one at the meter pit at the Narragansett / South Kingstown Town line interconnection, meter 100% of the water purchased via wholesale interconnection. The master meter located downstream of the South Shore wells meters 100% of the Town's water production whenever the well field is in use. Finally, every service connection within the water distribution system is metered at the point of sale, thus providing 100% distribution system metering. The

master meter for UWRI for the South Shore area is located off of Route 1 near the intersection with Kettle Pond Drive.

Recent System Improvements

The South Kingstown Water Division maintains an ongoing, aggressive Capital Improvements Program (CIP) in order to provide its customers with a safe and reliable supply of potable water. There have been several significant improvements to the water distribution system since preparation of the original Water Supply Management Plan (May 1994). The following list identifies the major system improvements that have taken place in recent years.

- Development of a new source (Well No. 3)
- Construction of a booster pump station
- Completion of Meter Repair / Replacement Program
- System-wide control upgrades
- Constructed the interconnection between the South Shore Water System and UWRI

Policy and Procedure

The South Kingstown Water Division continues to focus its efforts on supplying safe and reliable drinking water to its customers, as seen through the accomplishments of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The Water Division shall continue to address any and all water system deficiencies by way of this vehicle. Construction of the water filtration plant will alleviate the water quality concerns that have plagued the water system in the past.

The South Kingstown Water Division is equally concerned with water conservation. The current non-account water is 16.1 percent, which is slightly above the State goal of 15 percent (established in State Guide Plan Element 721).

Beginning in August of 2007, the Water Division commenced replacing all customer water meters for the South Shore and Middlebridge water systems using third party installation contractor services. As of June 11, 2008, all but 34 water meters have been replaced, with the remaining meters being problematic due to seasonal customers or meter pits.

The new meter system (manufactured by Master Meter) employs "drive-by" radio reading technology, whereby all water meters can be read within a three (3) hour period as compared to an eight (8) to ten (10) week reading period with the former "walk-by" technology.

The radio reading system will allow all customer water meters and each water system's wholesale (or production) meter to be read within a three (3) hour time span. This

compressed reading timeframe will be able to provide a more accurate analysis of so-called "unaccounted for" water, since the water customer reading (and consumption) period coincides with the same wholesale purchase (or production period).

Preliminary drive-by meter reading data (from March and April of 2008) indicates that unaccounted for water losses are significantly lower than reported in the past. A more accurate determination of "unaccounted for" water can be made once the remaining meters are replaced during the Spring of 2008.

The population of South Kingstown has grown moderately over the past decade. During this same span, the corresponding Average Day Demand (ADD) has grown similarly. The current ADD is approximately 0.415 million gallons per day (mgd) with a Maximum Day Demand (MDD) of approximately 1.04 mgd. Although current available supplies now appear capable of meeting demands, prior to the development of a new source and construction of the booster station, shortfalls in supply during the summer months were not uncommon, as demands exceeded system capabilities.

As mentioned, at present, South Kingstown water resources include three (3) active wells for the South Shore system and wholesale water purchased from the UWRI Company for the Middlebridge system. The available capacity of this water system has been estimated at approximately 1.38 mgd. Anticipated future water demands for the 5- and 20-year planning periods (2012 and 2027, respectively) have been estimated as follows:

	2012	2027
Average Day Demand	0.435 mgd	0.498 mgd
Maximum Day Demand	1.111mgd	1.270 mgd

These projections are based on population projections made by the United States Census Bureau. These estimates do not however, account for significant water savings potentially realized through implementation of demand management strategies. A conservative rate of 15% non-account water has been incorporated into the demand projections for the 5-year planning period, and a 10% rate for the 20-year horizon.

The Emergency Management section of the Plan establishes the responsibilities and authority within the Water Division for responding to most probable emergencies and outlines specific tasks for carrying out functional and constructive solutions based on a review of the potential emergencies and risks. The procedures outlined are consistent with the goals of the State Emergency Water Supply System Management Plan. It is also intended that this document provide guidance to ensure that the primary aspects of recovery from an emergency are addressed in an organized manner to aid in an efficient response and in maintaining drinking water quality and quantity.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
KINGSTON CAMPUS

WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLAN

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND – KINGSTON CAMPUS

WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The University of Rhode Island-Kingston Campus has completed the Water Supply System Management Plan in accordance with the State of Rhode Island Water Resources Rules and Procedures for Water Supply System Management Planning. This Executive Summary is developed to highlight the historical operations and future considerations of the University water system.

BACKGROUND

The University water system operates to serve the water supply needs of the students, faculty, and staff of the Kingston Campus of the University of Rhode Island. As such the University complies with all laws, rules, regulations, and directives of appropriate legal authorities and operates the system in accordance with generally accepted standards for water systems.

SYSTEM OVERVIEW

The Kingston Campus University of Rhode Island (KCURI-Water) water system obtains all of its water from three wells and distributes that water to approximately 117 buildings on the campus through a pipeline system. Water is treated for corrosion control at the source. The system includes one major storage facility for distribution storage. The system dates from the 1940's with additional wells added in the 1950's and 1970's.

The KCURI-Water system has three emergency connections to the Kingston Water District, an adjacent water system.

SOURCE WATER QUALITY PROTECTION

KCURI-Water has developed a Water Quality Protection Program as a part of this Plan. The Program includes an identification of the threats to the source water quality and management actions to protect the aquifer. The Program was developed in accordance with Water Supply System Management Plan and Well Head Protection Plan (WHP) regulations and guidance.

HISTORIC USAGE

Tale 1 describes the recent historic water usage by KCURI-Water.

Table 1 – Historical water to the system

Calendar Year	Water Pumped	
	Million Gallons/yr	Million Gallons/Day
1995	142.149	0.389
1996	179.109	0.489
1997	175.111	0.480
1998	141.081	0.387
1999	170.265	0.466
2000	166.596	0.455
2001	158.538	0.434
2002	147.302	0.404
2003	148.221	0.406
2004	158.578	0.434
2005	150.550	0.412
2006	137.891	0.378
2007	154.999	0.425
2008	153.536	0.420
2009	147.024	0.408

Note: Pump station and tank were down for maintenance during July and August 1998 resulting in no water withdrawals from URI wells during those two months. Unmetered water was supplied from KWD. In August 2008 Well#4 was being serviced and redeveloped, KWD supplied unmetered water to the system for 10 days

WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Over the past five years and in future years one of our goals is to focus on water conservation campus wide. In order to accomplish this task and achieve results, we focused on the main areas of consumption. These areas included the dorms, academic buildings and the steam plant. The academic buildings and dorms bear the brunt of our domestic use. The university has undertaken numerous renovation and new building projects over the past years few years. The standards for these construction projects promote efficiency. Water saving devices such as low flow shower heads, faucets and reduced consumption toilets have been installed as standard equipment in all of the new and renovated buildings. Since 2003 we have finished renovating three academic buildings and five dorms, built three new dorms, a new dining facility and a high tech science building. This equates to approximately 500,000 sq. ft. of new occupied academic and residential space. We have also undertaken major infrastructure improvements in our steam system that has positively impacted our water consumption. A considerable investment in our condensate return system has improved the amount of condensate we return to the steam plant reducing the need for makeup water (Approx. 3,000,000 Gallons saved over the same time last year). We have also replaced two pumping systems in our steam plant that will no longer need system water for cooling (1,000,000 Gallons saved in 2006). Referring to Table (1), a significant portion of the reduction can be attributed to these efforts. In addition, the University has implemented a university wide performance contract with Noresco, an energy services company. As part of this long term project we have installed numerous showerheads and aerators in areas not attended too in the ongoing renovation projects. We have also been performing heating system improvements that will further improve our condensate return steam system and the ability to conserve makeup water at the steam plant. If you refer to annual consumption since 2004 we have remained relatively flat as far as usage. This speaks volumes as far as the success of our water conservation efforts, and the University will continue to pursue additional opportunities as they arise.

An initiative that was described in the 30 month update is now in the process of being implemented. This is the water reuse project at URI's East Farm aquaculture site. NORESCO, our Performance Contract Implementation Contractor, will install re-circulating aquaculture treatment systems to substantially reduce the need for make-up water supplied by the Kingston Water District and will reduce the effluent

discharged into the nearby settling pond. Total projected volume affected including future expansion plans is approximately 65,000,000 gallons of water withdrawels to be offset. The reduced water use will deliver substantial utility cost savings while reducing the University's impact on the local aquifer. The installed process treatment system will recycle approximately 95% of the system flow at any given time, dumping only 5% to the settling pond. Several stages of filtration will ensure the quality of the process water and air-cooled process chillers will provide temperature control. NORESCO will furnish and install eight water recirculation systems at the East Farm Aquaculture Research Center.

One future improvement being assessed is waterless urinals. We have two units installed and are under evaluation. If these are deemed a success then we will look at updating the applicable locations as funds become available.

Additionally the University is also assessing the irrigation system and the applicability of an automatic method of irrigation depending on soil moisture. We are currently researching the feasibility for applications on our athletic fields. This project is also subject to available funding.

SYSTEM NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS

URIKC-Water has installed and is currently using water treatment equipment on Well #4 for the purpose of ph and corrosion control. This treatment system was placed into service on June 13, 2000.

Well #4 was redeveloped in August of 2008. A new pump and motor system was installed along with the redevelopment/cleaning process. The measure has increased capacity back to the original design levels.

In September/October of 2009 a VFD was installed to control flow from the well. The result of this improvement is a more efficient way to pump from the well. We maintain a larger head above the screen and pump at a much lower pressure to fill the tank. This creates much less stress on the well and distribution system and will allow a longer healthier well life. Energy efficiency of the pumping process has improved by running the motor at 89% of full load capacity saving the university

approximately $10,000/yr in operating costs. This also gives us the ability to operate the well on pressure and will allow uninterrupted service should the tank be taken offline. The VFD can also be ramped up to provide increased flow/capacity during fire emergencies enhancing system pressure.

A water tank inspection, cleaning and maintenance program was implemented in 2004 and will be implemented as needed on a continual basis. The tank was inspected again and vacuumed in 2006. The maximum period of inspection will not exceed five years as recommending by the RIDOH sanitary survey.

Our flushing program has been ongoing since 2003 and has proved to be very successful. Since 2003 we have met our goal of being able to flush the entire system completely once every year. We have also done localized flushing as needed during the rest of the year. Water quality has steadily improved during this time.

URI is currently in the final stages of upgrading the control and information systems that we currently use at our well station. The improvements will include remote control of the station, improved alarming, equipment status, automatic logging and trending of pump data, tank level indication, ph levels and water temperature. Real time data will be available to approved personnel through a dedicated connection anywhere, anytime if/when access is needed to monitor or control the operation. By enhancing the operation in this way, our notification and response time to alarms will be improved and more efficiently handled.

In May of 2009 the State of Rhode Island incorporated into the RI Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Drinking Water (Section 9.4) the regulation that all community water systems develop and implement a cross-connection control program. URIKC has complied with this rule and has implemented a plan to isolate all buildings on the URIKC system utilizing the proper backflow prevention device. This plan was completed during the summer of 2009 and URI has installed backflow prevention on all of its buildings connected to the URIKC Water System. In addition we have an annual program to test and certify all of the existing and new devices on the campus. A booklet is kept with all equipment data and test results of all these devices. All buildings not owned by the University but connected to the water system will be required to install backflow prevention devices as needed within one year from January 1, 2010.

A leak detection program to complete an evaluation of the entire distribution system was implemented in 2004 and will be repeated on a 5 - 10 year cycle as indicated in the requirements under Chapter 46-15.3 of Title 46 (Waters and Navigation)

Additional projects that are being assessed for the future include:

- Chlorination disinfection system
- A water main relocation project for a new dormitory being proposed on Baird Hill Road will offer opportunity to improve the distribution system in this area.
- System mapping - water line, valve and hydrant verification

ANTICIPATED FUTURE NEEDS

The assumptions and calculations for the anticipated five (5) and twenty (20) year planning horizons are included in the main report. Table 2 is a summary of past and anticipated demands.

Table 2 – Summary of Anticipated Water Demands

Year	***Actual/Est***	***MGD***	***MGY***
1985	Actual	0.49	179.1
1990	Actual	0.50	182.5
2000	Actual	0.46	166.6
2005	Actual	0.41	150.5
2010	Estimate	0.42	155.0
2015	Estimate	0.45	164.3
2020	Estimate	0.50	181.6

AVAILABLE WATER

The water available to the University is limited by the availability of water in the Chipuxet Aquifer that is shared with the Kingston Water District. Table 3 compares the 2000 available water to the 2000 water use. Table 4 compares the anticipated future demand to the available water in the 5 and 20 year planning scenarios.

KCURI-Water considers its supplies to be sufficient to meet the anticipated demands for the five (5) and (20) year planning scenarios.

Table 3

Available Water vs Water Use – Recent Years

Year	Chipuxet Aquifer Yield (MGD)	Pumping Capacity (MGD)	Actual Average Use (MGD)
2005	2.5 @ 99% 3.2 @ 95% Based on 1991 Urish report – Table 2 using Johnson & Dickerman 1985 evaluation	2.2 Pumping capacity is based upon 16 hours per day of pumps operation	0.41
2000			0.46
1995			0.41
1990			0.50
1985			0.49

Table 4

Available Water vs Anticipated Water Use

Planning Year	Chipuxet Aquifer Yield (MGD)	Pumping Capacity (MGD)	Estimated Demand (MGD)
2015 (5 years)	2.5 @ 99% reliability 3.2 @ 95% reliability	2.2	0.44
2020 (10 years)			0.50

Note: Demand is for URI only. KWD also pumps from Chipuxet Aquifer.

United Water pumps from the Chipuxet subbasin located in the Pawcatuck watershed.

NON-ACCOUNT WATER

KCURI-Water does not measure water distributed to its users since the water supply is provided as a service to the campus population (students, faculty, and staff). There is no record of, nor any method of calculating non-account water. KCURI-Water has implemented a comprehensive leak detection program in 2003 to control non-account water. Surveys are currently scheduled every 5 – 10 years depending on the judgment of the facilities manager using reviews of the withdrawal data compared with normal consumption parameters.

METERING

KCURI-Water measures the water pumped and distributed to the campus but does not meter water used by various facilities with the exception of the URI Heating Plant and the newly constructed Ryan Center and Ice rink. KCURI-Water has no further plans to install meters to measure use in each of the facilities.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

KCURI-Water has completed a Vulnerability Assessment and developed an Emergency Response Action Plan which is included as part of the main report.

DROUGHT MANAGEMENT

URIKC-Water will cooperate with the Kingston Water District, The Town of South Kingstown Utilities Department, and United Water of Rhode Island in the implementation of steps necessary to supply water during a drought. The University will follow the mandates of the State of Rhode Island in the process of implementation of Drought Warnings, Drought Watches, and Drought Emergency Conditions.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE, RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES, AND PROJECTED COSTS

Elements of the Water Supply System Management Plan are in progress in the normal course of business of KCURI-Water. Daily operations, maintenance, and administration are ongoing; the Capital Improvement and Infrastructure Rehabilitation Plans are in accordance with the schedule for each program; therefore the implementation schedule in Table 5 includes major maintenance and rehabilitation items under consideration by KCURI-Water.

Table 5 – Implementation

Plan Element	Scheduled Completion Date	Source of Funding	Responsibility for Completion
Leak Detection Survey	2012	Budget	Utilities Dept.
Upgrade system management information systems	2010	Budget	Utilities Dept.
Sodium Hypochlorite Disinfection System	2010	Budget	Utilities Dept.
Implement water efficiency awareness programs	Ongoing	Budget	Utilities Dept.
Redevelopment of wells# 2 and 3	2011/2012	Budget	Utilities Dept.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

KCURI-Water operates as a division of Facility Services, an administrative section of the organization of the University of Rhode Island. There are no independent sources of funds for KCURI-Water and it derives its operating funds from budgeted funds of the University.

COORDINATION

This Plan was developed using the information from the University of Rhode Island Master Plan and other information available from various departments at the University.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Water Supply System Management Plan for United Water Rhode Island has been developed in compliance with the regulatory and guidance documents pertaining to Water Supply planning, of the State of Rhode Island. The *Rules and Procedures for Water Supply System Management Planning* (October 1998) were promulgated pursuant to the requirements and provisions of Rhode Island General Laws Title 46 Waters & Navigation Chapter 46-15.3 Public Drinking Water Supply System Protection.

This Plan maintains consistency with the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan of the Town of South Kingstown, July 1992, as amended May 1999, the Comprehensive Plan of the Town of Narragansett, and with the State of RI Guide Plan Element 721 - *Water Supply Policies for Rhode Island*. Common goals expressed in these plans, such as water source protection and control of land development, have been reviewed prior to development of this plan.

This revised Plan is set-up in a manner which complements the format of the Water Supply System Management Plan check list. Worksheets, tables and figures are inserted as appropriate throughout the plan, in an effort to complement the presentation of data and to facilitate review.

The goal of this revised Plan is to comply with the provisions of the Water Supply Planning Regulations referenced previously, by developing a comprehensive water supply management plan for the United Water Rhode Island supply system. It is also intended for use in applying the components of the plan to successful execution for the purpose of achieving the effective and efficient conservation, development, utilization, and protection of the water system's resources in ways that satisfy the present and future needs of the United Water Rhode Island customer base.

United Water Rhode Island (fka Wakefield Water Company), owned by United Water Resources, is a coastal utility located in Washington County, Rhode Island. The Company owns and operates a public water supply and distribution system in a non-exclusive territory, serving portions of the Towns of South Kingstown and Narragansett as well as a wholesale connection serving the village of Point Judith. Neighboring water purveyors located in the area include: Town of South Kingstown Utilities Department, Town of Narragansett Water Division, Town of North Kingstown Water Department, Kingston Fire District, and the University of Rhode Island Utility system.

United Water Rhode Island was incorporated in 1887 by George Alexander, Benjamin C. Mudge, George T. Lamphear, and Benjamin R. Curtis, with the intent of furnishing water to the Town of South Kingstown and neighboring

communities. At present, the Company provides water to approximately 40% of the combined populations of the Town of South Kingstown and the Town of Narragansett, either directly or through wholesaling.

Two Well fields located within the Mink Brook aquifer within the Chipuxet River basin accommodates 100% of the service area demand. There are at present, a total of six (6) gravel-packed wells, and two (2) booster pumping station that comprise the source water supply portion of the United Water Rhode Island water system. After treatment at both locations, water is supplied either directly into the distribution system for consumption, or serves to augment storage volumes within the storage facilities.

Tuckertown Well field -This well field includes four (4) gravel packed wells No. 1,2,3, and 4, all of which are equipped with deep well pumps. Each well discharges to a common venturi pit where flow combines prior to passing through a venturi meter. From the meter pit the raw water passes through an aerator unit where much of the carbon dioxide is released. The water then flows into a one (1) million gallon clear well tank. Water is then pumped from the clear well by one of three high pressure pumps, which operate on system demand The pumped water then goes through the treatment process where chlorine gas is injected for disinfecting, pH adjustment is accomplished utilizing hydrated lime and Zinc orthophosphate is then added for corrosion control.

Howland Well field- This well field includes two (2) gravel packed wells denoted as wells no. 5 and 6 both of which are equipped with deep well turbine pumps. Both wells discharge to a common aerator fitted to the top of the 0.25 MG Howland Reservoir, provided for the removal of carbon dioxide. Water falls through the aerator into the reservoir, which functions as a clearwell. At this point chlorine gas is added for disinfecting. The high pressure booster pumps then transfer water from this tank through the treatment facility. Here hydrated lime is added for pH adjustment. Zinc Orthophosphate is then added for corrosion control. After treatment the water then flows into the distribution system. A diesel generator located on the exterior to the booster pump station building served as the emergency power back-up source for the entire well field, including treatment and pumping equipment.

The United Water Rhode Island water system includes five (5) storage facilities, two of which function as clear wells (one for each well field) with the remaining three (3) located throughout the service area (Sherman, Boston Neck and Tower Hill tanks). All facilities are constructed of steel, with the distribution facilities of standpipe configuration, and the clear wells are reservoir types.

The UWRI water supply system includes two (2) booster pumping stations, one each located at the Howland Well field, and the Tuckertown Well field. Both booster stations provides the means by which water from the well fields can be supplied to the system. It is equipped with three centrifugal pumps,

two of which alternate automatically, with the third maintained as an emergency back-up.

The entire water transmission distribution system is fully interconnected, with the Sherman Tank, Tower Hill Tank, and Boston Neck Tank at overflow elevations of 248.0, 236.0, and 180.0 ft respectively. This allows it to be operated as a single pressure zone and also permits both sources to be sent to all parts of the system. The early portion of these mains date to c. 1887, are typically 6 to 16 inches in diameter and are of good condition.

United Water Rhode Island currently maintains a total of five (5) system interconnections with neighboring water utilities. Two interconnections for the wholesaling of water are maintained with the Middlebridge section of the Town of South Kingstown Utilities Department. UWRI is the sole source of supply to the Middlebridge system, with the Torrey Rd. interconnection the primary means of supply. Likewise three interconnections are operated with the Town of Narragansett Water Division for supply of water to the Point Judith and North End sections of its distribution system.

The Water Company continues to employ an aggressive pro-active Capital Improvement Program of water main replacement/rehabilitation which has been in effect for several years, with the intent of replacing existing low capacity mains and water meters, upgrading system storage facilities, and improving overall system reliability. A principal target of this effort is the on-going AC main replacement program designed to eventually eliminate the frequent failures of the system's Century Pipe.

UWRI provides the Town of South Kingstown with up to 300,000 gpd to supply no more than 500 services and fire flow. In 1938, Narragansett entered into an agreement with United Water Rhode Island to purchase water for resale by the Town through its new and developing distribution system. Currently the agreement, stipulates that a maximum of 2,300,000 gallons of water per day can be taken by the Town of Narragansett and the flow rate for this delivery is not to exceed 1,600 gallons per minute.

There continues to be a portion of the service area which depends primarily on private well systems. The majority of these private wells are associated with single family residences; however, some wells provide water to commercial and industrial facilities within the service area. These private well systems and their service population would also be eligible to be served by the UWRI system; again, contingent upon formal approval of United Water Rhode Island.

There has been a steady growth in the number of system service connections over the past ten (10) years, with the greatest increase occurring during the most recent years. As of December 31, 2000, the total number of

system services amounted to 7,252. Of this number, 160 are considered seasonal, required mostly for summer use, between the months of March and November.

It is estimated that the total population served by UWRI (as of December 31, 2000) computes to approximately 18,800 UWRI estimates that accounting for private wells located within the service area, a population of approximately 20,000 is eligible to be served by United Water Rhode Island.

The desirability of the service area as a summer resort for vacationers, coupled with a similar occurrence in the service area of UWRI wholesale customers, Narragansett and South Kingstown, has the net effect of increasing the Average Daily Demand (ADD) approximately 40%, from a non-summer average of 2.81 mgd to a summer ADD of 3.02 mgd using year 2000 production.

Utilizing recharge values obtained from the USGS, the unconsolidated deposits aquifers within the Chipuxet River basin would receive approximately 30 million gallons per day (MGD) of recharge. Within the RIDEM designated wellhead protection area for the Tuckertown and Howland well fields, the recharge estimate is 3.55 mgd Total usage reported by UWRI in 1999 was 2.88 mgd. Static water levels recorded at the Howland and Tuckertown wellfields indicate that historical pumpage has not lowered water levels in the unconsolidated aquifer and thus pumpage has not exceeded recharge capacity.

All of the water pumped from the United Water Rhode Island groundwater supply system is metered at each well field providing 100% source metering. Every residential, commercial, industrial and government customer serviced by the Company's water supply distribution system is metered. Wholesale meters are read daily with other large users meters read on a monthly schedule. Residential users are read quarterly.

The annual number of services added to the United Water Rhode Island system has leveled off and remained fairly constant over the past ten years. The average number of new system-wide services added annually over the past ten years equals 120.5. This services growth rate compares favorably with the development growth rates for Narragansett and South Kingstown. It is expected that the existing rate of growth in production volumes will likely continue for a number of years. It is expected that the major component of this growth will result from residential expansion, with minimal industrial, and small commercial growth expected. UWRI estimated percentage (%) of system non-account water has stabilized over the past three years, and is currently 11.15% well in line with the desired State goal of 15%. Conservatively, the recharge value of 3.55 mgd to the aquifer tapped by the well fields within the WHPA will provide the average daily demand of sold water though 2019.

United Water Rhode Island has implemented a number of water conservation programs in recent years some of which include providing residential retrofit kits, establishing a variable water use rate structure which provides a separate rate structure for assessing charges to residential users, commercial, industrial and municipal users, water audits, public education regarding conservation and system pressure reduction.

To date, United Water Rhode Island has taken numerous actions to help protect the Mink Brook Aquifer through implementation of regulations outlined in the water quality protection component and Wellhead Protection Program (WHP) Guidelines. United Water Rhode Island has developed and submitted a formal Water Quality Protection Plan. Work completed to date for the water quality protection and WHP includes the delineation of the source water protection area, inventory of known and potential sources of pollution and an evaluation of the source water susceptibility. The company has ongoing strategies to ensure the continued protection of the company's water supply source. A primary goal of these strategies is to provide for the protection of raw water supplies in those areas subject to the influence of the groundwater wells. This protection is accomplished fundamentally by owning and controlling sufficient land area around each of these wells to preclude as much as possible the threat of raw water contamination.

The Emergency Management Plan establishes the relative responsibility and authority within the United Water Rhode Island organization for responding to the most probable emergencies, and outlines specific tasks for carrying out functional and constructive solutions based on a review of such potential emergencies and risks. The Plan identifies critical water system components and presents emergency response scenarios that minimize impacts to the water system and its users. The revised Plan includes updated contacts and contractors

Introduction to the 2007 Update

The ensuing chapters have been revised to reflect changes to the Kingston Water District's 2002 Water Supply System Management Plan and the 2004 update.

Various worksheets, in Excel format, have been included at the end of the update and serve as supplemental background information for the various tables that are imbedded in the body of the text.

The District has a long history of regular maintenance and system improvements. Going forward, the emphasis will be placed upon the four "Rs" of repairing, replacement, redundancy, and reliability. A short description of the 4 "Rs" ensues. Of the four, the concept of **repairing** something is the most familiar, yet the least understood. When something is repaired, it is not renewed, let alone replaced; the repaired item simply is put back into working order. The life expectancy of the repaired item is not extended by the repair; at best, the repaired item will maintain its original life expectancy after being repaired.

Replacement starts the depreciation process all over. The item or component being replaced may be smaller, greater, or equal to the original item. Once the item has been installed, the life cycle begins anew.

Reliability refers to the quality associated with any particular item or operation. Will something work and how well and for how long? These are the questions that determine reliability. The lowest cost approach to bidding does not necessarily translate into the best product. For example, though initially more expensive than "suitable" fill, the District uses process gravel for backfilling its trenches. Ultimately, we save significantly when repaving. Bedding a water main in process gravel will enhance its life expectancy when compared to bedding the same main in bank run.

Conversely, simply throwing money at something does not guarantee quality. Ductile iron piping, for example, is significantly more expensive than PVC. The District has standardized on DI for use in the rocky environs of Kingston and Tefft Hill because of the pipe's inherent strength. However, in the sand and gravel deposits of West Kingston, there is scant reason to expend the premium for ductile iron when other materials are more than suitable.

The depreciation clock starts ticking all over again with the replacement of any item, such as a water service. Because it is far more difficult and expensive to replace something than it is to install something in the first place, quality and reliability must go hand in hand. Simply installing something that will do is not a wise investment when future planning is concerned. Forty years ago, this district's previous iteration was advised that a twelve-inch transmission main should be installed along Rt. 138. The consultants also indicated that a ten-inch main would do and would save approximately $2,500 in piping costs. The ten-inch went in the ground.

In 1983, outside consultants advised the then Kingston Fire District Water Department that the entire ten-inch main along with the eight-inch main should be replaced with twelve-inch pipes. That option was shelved, in consultation with various professionals, in favor of a sixteen inch main that would handle additional pumping capacity that would be experienced when the District replaced Well #1 and added Well #2 along with tying in the URI-owned Fairgrounds Road Well. Had the 12 inch line been installed, the engineers claimed that we would have had only the eight-inch main to replace with 16 inch piping. So much for saving $2,500.

Redundancy is best thought of as risk analysis and is intertwined with the concept of reliability through the duplication of key components or systems. By incorporating redundancy into the operations, reliability improves. What sort of risk is acceptable? Should an organization, which deals with essential services, gamble that it will be able to provide water 90%, 99%, or 99.9% of the time? Or even 99.99% of the time? In water treatment especially virus removal, the term four log is applied to 99.99%. Though a score of 90 in academia may represent a satisfactory grade, the same 90 percent may not pass muster in all areas. Ninety percent of the time, one source and one storage structure may suffice, but what would people do if water became unavailable 10% of the time?

In terms of one year, 90% reliability or one log could mean that a system might be out of water for up to 36 days. At two-log or 99% reliability, the customer risks being out of water for almost four days annually. At 99.9% and 99.99%, the potential annual interruption drops to 8 hours and to 48 minutes, respectively. All of these levels carry an attendant cost associated with them even though the redundant items do not necessarily generate any additional revenue to support the additional reliability.

What is the magic number? What are the steps associated with attaining each subsequent level of overall system reliability? To make that determination a series of questions have to be asked. For example, is it better to have one large water tower or two smaller structures? Should all of the district's wells be located in one area? What about the transmission lines, should all sources be tied into one transport system; certainly that would make for economies of scale? Should all pump stations be equipped with backup power supplies even though the wells are tied into the same transmission line?

Early in the planning process for the development of Well #2, the consultants suggested that the district could save significantly by not installing a backup power supply. The consultant's argument, at the time, was that Well #1 had sufficient backup power to supply at least 50% of the district's maximum daily demand. According to the rule of thumb in that era, 25% capacity was sufficient for emergency purposes. Fortunately, the district opted for reliability and spent the additional funds for the backup power supply at Well #2. Not more than twelve months after the well was brought on line, the area experienced a power outage while the District was supplying all of URI's water needs in addition to our own demands.

We have applied the four "Rs" as a sort of litmus test for determining the usefulness and/or viability of various undertakings over the past several decades. For instance, the installation of a sixteen inch main becomes a viable project, in spite of its cost, because the pipe enables the District to connect high volume pumps for fire suppression and other emergencies, and the availability of multiple sources of supply enhances the District's ability to supply water even if one or more wells are out of service.

In the final analysis, a system is only as reliable as its degree of redundancy. Reference to this thinking process will be made throughout the document.

GOAL STATEMENT

The Kingston Water District's goal is to provide safe drinking water in a reliable manner to all users in its service area. The Kingston Water District will endeavor to preserve and conserve natural resources while utilizing the ground waters to serve its community as indicated in the District's motto: "To serve, preserve, and conserve".

This Water Supply System Management Plan complies with R.I General Laws Chapter 46-15.3, and is consistent with the State Guide Plan Element 721 and the Comprehensive Plan of the Town of South Kingstown.

CHAPTER 20
Coordination
Revised 2006

Comprehensive Plan:

The Kingston Water District has been involved with the Town of South Kingstown's Comprehensive Plan for all portions that concern water or the District including the recently submitted update. The KWD will maintain its involvement with the Town in the revisions of that plan.

Anticipated Future Demands:

The entire town depends upon ground water for potable use. KWD, URI, and United Water withdraw all of their water from wells in the Chipuxet Subbasin of the Pawcatuck River Basin. The Town's South Shore system has become a wholesale customer of United Water complete with a major interconnection along Rt. 1. Subsequently the Chipuxet Subbasin has become the source of supply for virtually all of South Kingstown and Narragansett.

The United/Kingston interconnection as envisioned by the Water Resources Board has not become a reality. As of this writing, no further activity regarding this matter is under consideration.

Proposed Actions:

1. The KWD will continue to participate on the Drought Management Task Force as chaired by the WRB.
2. The District worked closely with the Town of South Kingstown during the Town's update of the Community Comprehensive Plan and will continue that process during further revisions of that document.
3. The District participated in the first phase (WAPAC) of developing an allocation (water management system) for the entire State.
4. The KWD will continue its involvement in the second phase (implementation) of the allocation process.

Municipal Plans:

The Town of South Kingstown has implemented a Ground Water Protection Overlay District, which added an additional layer of regulation over its zoning ordinance. The KWD was involved in the development of the GPOD.

South Kingstown has completed its Wellhead Protection Plan, which applies to land use throughout the town.

Coordination Efforts:

1. **Other suppliers:**

Historically, URI and KWD have worked very closely to support each other during water supply emergencies. That relationship has been enhanced through the Water Supply Board administered Emergency Interconnection Program. In 2003, the District finished the new interconnection between URI and KWD. In 2004, the WRB reimbursed the District for fifty percent of the cost of the project. In 2005, KWD in coordination with URI installed a third interconnection between the two systems.

The subject of an interconnection between United and KWD along Rt. 108 has been raised many times over the years. However, there does not seem to be any genuine interest in pursuing the matter at this time.

2. Wastewater treatment facilities:

The Town of South Kingstown provides municipal sewer service to portions of the District. The District furnishes the Town with water meter readings and consumption information. This is consistent with the procedures of the other water utilities supplying other areas serviced by the Town's sewer system.

Members of the Town's wastewater division work very closely with District officials relative to expansion of the utilities into areas not previously served. In particular, the KWD has worked very closely with the Town relative to the expansion of the sewer system into the Diane Drive area and north along Old North Road. This project alleviated an egregious sewage problem for one area and provided an opportunity for the District to make significant water main improvements for the same population.

3. Individual Sewage Disposal Systems:

Much of the undeveloped portion of the District is not serviced by public sewers and is outside of the future sewer service area. In addition, several neighborhoods currently serviced by the water system are not on town sewers because of elevation constraints. To minimize any threats posed by those systems to the raw water quality, the District continues to work closely with the Cooperative Extension Service at URI to educate property owners about advanced sewage treatment technologies. In 2002, the Town adopted a town wide Wastewater District, which calls for inspection and the upgrading of all ISDSs. All substandard systems must be replaced within five years of inspection. This action will alleviate many of the threats to raw water quality associated with ISDSs.

4. Neighboring Towns:

Exeter: The town is part of the Pawcatuck Watershed, which includes the Chipuxet Subbasin. A portion of the recharge area of the Chipuxet falls within the Town of Exeter. Exeter relies on the Pawcatuck Watershed for its source of water. Water use patterns in Exeter will influence the quality and quantity of water for downstream users. Therefore, the KWD will continue to participate in regional planning efforts.

The KWD continues to recognize that water needs to be managed on a basin wide basis.

North Kingstown: The town is involved with two other entities in developing an interim basin wide management plan for the HAP aquifer. Presumably, this will serve as a template for the rest of the state and may even hearken back to an earlier document prepared by William Spizuoco under the auspices of the Chipuxet Aquifer Steering Committee.

The district plans to be a silent bystander in the evolution of that management plan as it will have major implications for all water users in Rhode Island.